

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 25, 2003 LB 608

can creatively come to ways that would meet that public need to know. The packing houses are welcome in this bill, to my mind. There are two problems. As you're well aware, in the past, in Omaha, we have those without conscience. They treat their employees as indentured servants, treating them with insolence and lack of human care. And we have to pay the bill for that. Our Chicano Center there not only has to provide physical support, but psychological and emotional support to the people who are abused under that system. Thankfully, we are addressing that within the bill. But we're going to have to do more than that. And then the second problem is that the pay figures are way too low. This bill should be an economic development bill. It becomes economic undevelopment when we have to put in money to pay for a company coming in. It gets worse than that, to my mind. We are removing taxes from companies that might be invited to come to Nebraska and choose to do so. We're removing taxes from them, and loading up the people in the community with taxes. We've all seen that happen, at Lexington and other places, where persons were very excited to have a new business, and then found out that their bill went up. But Lexington's bill didn't go up near as much as Nebraska's bill. That was a huge cost to us, which did not, to some minds, balance out the economic incentive of it. I am...I welcome the amendment. I think the amendment helps us to look at this whole thing and to look directly at it. But frankly, the committee figures are way too low, because we're going to be subsidizing the committee figures. And I really think that when we go out for economic development, we're looking for quality jobs. That doesn't put down the people that take these kinds of jobs, which are, frankly, Burger King rates for teenagers. But when we try to put...when we invite breadwinners, heads of households to work for teenage Burger King wages, we are not doing ourselves an advantage. Again, I return to my opening thought, to the doubters about LB 775. We ought not to consider a cut here. We cannot. That's impossible, and it would be unwise. We must provide incentives for our economy to keep growing. It has boosted our economy. And right now we are hopefully into thoughtful reflection on what..

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.