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FLOOR DEBATE

March 25, 2003      LB 608

communities do not support a business that comes in and pays, as Senator Landis is referring to, hamburger flipping jobs. Why would they support that? In the first place, there isn't an employment base for that kind of a job. Why are people going to leave flipping hamburgers to go to another place that flips hamburgers? I mean, it doesn't make any sense. What you need is a proposal that will elevate people so that, as in the North Platte situation, they aspire to moving from their present employment situation into one that does have benefit for them and for their families. And that's what we're trying to accomplish. I am not trying to set a minimum wage for the state of Nebraska. My amendment does not try to set a minimum wage. The committee has suggested that there be a floor. I'm just suggesting a different floor, but recognizing a differential between the urban and the rural areas. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Engel, followed by Senators Thompson, Beutler, Schimek, Redfield, Senator Dwite Pedersen, Senator Tyson. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Mr. President. I couldn't be here last Thursday. I do appreciate Senator Landis mentioning a few of the things I was concerned about. But today, in listening to Senator Thompson, Senator Beutler, and others here, I certainly agree with what they're saying. I do want to preface this with that I certainly do believe that we need LB 775. It's done great things for our state, and so we do need it. But I know...I voted for every incentive bill since I've been here. I wasn't here when LB 775 was introduced. And I probably would have voted for it then, not knowing exactly all the ramifications of it. But hindsight is one thing, and now is another thing. But the other incentive bills that we did pass, they demanded better than average wages and full benefits, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. And therefore...so that just showed...I think, because of LB 775, that kind of showed us that if we're going to have more industry come in here, it's going to be industry that's going to add to our communities instead of cause these other problems that Senator Thompson talked about where the wages that are paid, these people automatically qualify for most of our social benefits. And of course, I live in South Sioux City, Nebraska, as some of you know. And up