

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

March 25, 2003 LB 608

that we would be talking about noninterference in the marketplace on the basic question of LB 775 incentives. That's the hugest government interference with the marketplace that's happened in the last part of the twentieth century. Governments making subsidies and competing with each other giving subsidies to business. That's not the marketplace; that's government interference. And then when government wants to interfere on behalf of the worker, we say, no, no, no, no government interference with LB 775. Why, it's, to me, preposterous. A single parent with two children earning the base wage required by Senator Pederson's amendment in rural Nebraska would be earning \$14,999. At that "subpoverty" wage, he's still eligible...that family is still eligible for public assistance; more subsidy to business, I would argue. They would qualify for childcare entirely paid by the state of Nebraska under the scenario in the description that's been handed out to you. They would receive food stamps, up to \$366 per month. Their children would have their medical care paid for entirely with Medicaid at public expense. Maybe it's time to start looking at a whole new way of dealing with the economy and dealing with our rural areas. We paid low wages. We have no workers. We bring workers in from outside the country and then pay them low wages, and the whole cycle keeps repeating itself. Maybe we can break out of the cycle if we start looking at some new ways of structuring things, and maybe, just maybe, paying some high wages will keep young people and keep rural people in the rural areas. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: I call the question.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Hartnett calls the question. Do I see five hands? I do. The question before us then is, shall we cease debate? All in favor please vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BROMM: Debate does cease. Senator Landis...or Senator Pederson, I'm sorry, you're recognized to close on AM0883.