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FLOOR DEBATE

March 25, 2003      LB 608

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask for a call of the house.

SPEAKER BROMM: There has been a request for a call of the house. All in favor please vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call.

SPEAKER BROMM: The house is under call. Members, please report to your desks and record your presence. Unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. the house is under call. Senator Pederson, you want to proceed with your closing?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, actually I think this has been a pretty good discussion. We have on one side a theoretical discussion of what's a good idea, and the good idea that's theoretical is that we should pay high wages. Of course we should be paying high wages, but in fact when we say we should be paying high wages, we don't pay high wages. The businesses that may come to the state of Nebraska are the ones that pay wages. Now when we talk about setting a wage level, we're not paying it ourselves. We're setting what may be a stumbling block to development within the rural area. Senator Beutler is saying maybe what we should be doing is requiring higher salaries and that that will keep people in the smaller communities. That's not very practical, Senator Beutler. What is practical is to have a favorable environment in which businesses want to come to the state of Nebraska, want to bring jobs. And, as Senator Tyson says, the marketplace determines what the wages are going to be. The marketplace determines what kind of benefits are given. And why do they determine that? They determine that because that's how they obtain their employees. And it seems to me that sometimes we give ourselves the credit of saying we have done this, we have brought in businesses and so forth. We don't bring in businesses. We only can create an atmosphere in which a business might want to develop itself in the state of Nebraska. It's easy to talk