

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

April 2, 2003

LB 210

just adds to the cost of operation for a sector that has run into this problem in a big way. Years ago, we didn't have to spend \$25,000 for workmen's compensation premiums. I have the Platte Valley Livestock Auction barn in Gering now. They have to go out into the pool in order to buy their workmen's comp for three employees. He figures it's going to be a \$25,000 cost, and yet he still has health insurance and other benefits for his employees. But nonetheless, workmen's comp is still a required evil, I guess you might say, for one thing, for his employees. It doesn't always pay off all that well. This is all agriculture work, cattle work. When he told me that the price of his workmen's compensation was going to go up, I told him, I suppose then the cost of me selling cattle to his establishment was going to go up. And he agreed completely. So it's something that, it's passed right on down through the economy. I think the less restrictive we get on some of these numbers, the better off we are. I think there...we can probably put something along the line that these people could have alternative ways of getting their insurance for their people. And I don't think adding more amendments to what we already have is the answer. I want to thank Senator Bromm for bringing this up, and overhauling it to the point it has. I think I'll vote for the measure the way it is. But I haven't seen any amendments that I'm comfortable with. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Preister, on the Beutler amendment to AM0926.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. If I could ask Senator Bromm a question, please?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, would you yield to a question from Senator Preister?

SPEAKER BROMM: Yes.

SENATOR PREISTER: Senator Bromm, I'm not sure you can even answer this. But we've talked about the requirements of law. And the one thing that I don't remember hearing in committee...and I don't know if you even know...and that's, what happened to the cattle worker and...after he was injured? Was