

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

April 29, 2003 LB 407

doing is plotting somewhere to figure how to jerk the rug out from under me. That's what you ought to be figuring. And all you have to do is get 33 votes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers and Senator Schimek. Senator Bourne, and this will be your third time.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President. I won't speak on this again either, as Senator Schimek mentioned. I tell you, when Senator Erdman got up and spoke though I almost reconsidered, because when the twins, Ernie and Phil Erdman, oppose something, I don't know, maybe it kind of cows me a little bit. But, listen, we're not talking about, in my mind, principle or the budget versus PEAP. We're talking about kids who the state of Nebraska said these scholarship funds are available if you choose to go to a particular institution, and those institutions are private institutions for these...for the sake of these scholarship funds. And with Senator Raikes' bill we say, okay, you can start this year; you've got five years to finish because we're phasing out this program. But under Senator Chambers' amendment, what we've done is we've extended this scholarship to them, and I assume that there's criteria in there that if you maintain a certain grade average that these funds will be available to you on an ongoing basis, and as I understand Senator Chambers' amendment those funds will be gone. So if you're...if you go to the university for this year through...I don't even know when it would start, I don't know, through May or through the next year, the point that I'm trying to make is, even though you maintain your grade average, as was indicated when you took that scholarship, it's gone. And Senator Chambers can hold the budget hostage. He can rant and rave and his twin can get up and say that, you know, that he agrees with Senator Chambers and we should do this, but the fact remains we're talking about kids here. We're talking about low-income individuals who might not otherwise be able to go to college. And I'm not going to support Senator Chambers' amendment and, you know, maybe he'll soften before the rest of