

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

April 30, 2003 LB 806

course of the claims bill, we have come to find out that some of the student loans that HHS said were uncollectible were actually never owed. HHS has been working with some of these doctors to weed out...or, weed through the confusion caused by their administrative errors, and subsequently have worked out repayments agreements with several doctors who were found to actually owe some money. The amendment to the committee amendment therefore contains a revised write-off in the amount of \$236,047.17. There is one doctor that I want to particularly mention in this...as I finish up this opening on this bill. And that is a doctor of the name of Dr. John Beck of Wilber, Nebraska, that had a loan that had been discharged more than ten years ago. And the amount was officially not owed to the program, even though the write-off request suggested that he still owed a large amount of money. Health and Human Services has confirmed that the loan was originally listed in the write-off amount and subsequently in newspapers. And many of you saw it. Should never have been on the list in the first place. This is a clarification that I thought was important to state on the record that this was an error that was made in the case of Dr. Beck. And I have personally apologized to him on behalf of the committee, which was actually not our fault, because this was certainly not the right thing to do. I would ask for your support of the committee amendments and of the bill. With that, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Oh,...attempt to answer them.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator, we do have Business and Labor Committee amendments, and you're recognized to open on that.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I had the committee amendment. But there's one other amendment up there.

SPEAKER BROMM: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the committee amendments with AM1652. (Legislative Journal page 1548.)