

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

May 28, 2003

LB 48

about this specific area for...since the beginning of the Legislature this year. I am in support of the germaneness suspension. And I think that we ought to do this because it's a tool that we use here and a tool we ought to continue to use.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Connealy. (Visitors introduced.) We go on to Senator Tyson, followed by Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise in support of the rule suspension. I think that's the proper way to handle it even though, in all fairness, a lot of things creep into bills by amendments that aren't germane. This is the way to handle it and I am going to vote to suspend the rules and to discuss AM2081 as a part of LB 48. Having said that, at least for the present I am going to vote against AM2081, not that I don't have any disagreement with it except for the money. Just a short history: The commission voted to go out of existence, set up as a 501(c)(3), which they've done, and like a lot of nonprofits, they look around for grant money and they found some, \$50,000 worth. It is my understanding, subject to the correction of anyone here who knows differently, that as a courtesy they notified the Governor's Office, who thereupon caused a similar application to be filed with the USDA, which because they had received two, returned both. And there was then a meeting, and I was at that meeting in which Governor Johanns expressed his position. My feelings were not hurt. I spent a lot of my life as a salesman selling steel, and if you can't handle rejection and negative results, you can't function. And that's true of this job as well. You have to have a little thicker skin sometimes. My only objection to AM2081 is in the numbers. I would regard the administration's acting...actions as cheese paring at best. We're talking about \$50,000, and I think if AM2081 were to specify \$50,000 instead of \$300,000, I'd say, yeah, that's fine. I think this is an overreaction, and on that basis, I will vote against AM2081. It's been expressed that this has become a political issue, and that's probably right. It has been expressed that the commission is ineffective. I don't know about that. I do know that it has functioned over the years and was found fit to be funded. The story is told that Franklin D. Roosevelt had a