

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

January 22, 2004 LB 602

it. It's uncomfortable. Adam Smith, everybody...a lot of people have heard of him. He's obviously a historic economist. But he was a moralist. The very first book he wrote was The Theory of Moral Sentiments, 1759. "The prudent man always studies seriously and earnestly to understand whatever he professes to understand, and not merely to persuade other people that he understands it; and although his talents may not always be very brilliant, they are always perfectly genuine." Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. Senator Erdman, followed by 12 others.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise in opposition to Senator Chambers' motion to recommit, and I rise in support of Senator Smith's underlying bill, LB 602. I don't rise in support because I seem to somehow think that I know better than anyone else. But I think when I look at what's been presented to me, both by the side that Senator Smith has taken and the information, as well as an actual group that was commissioned by the university, it appears to me that the right step for the state to take in our public policy is the one that's being offered to us by LB 602. Now, we were told yesterday that the President of the United States has a bioethics committee and has been tackling these issues on a national level. And they're very divisive, they are very, very difficult issues to understand, and they're very difficult to come up with a public policy that finds any type of harmony among the decision. But at the same time, we also have an obligation as a state to address these issues. And absence of the actual Legislature commissioning a group, I think we have to look at those groups within the state that have actually proceeded and gone on with this discussion. And so the most recent information that I have and the most recent information as far as this undertaking in the state of Nebraska comes from the university's recommendations on human stem cell research. Now, yesterday we were talking about stem cell research. We were talking about a little different variation of what is actually being discussed in the bill. And I think Senator Foley has pointed that out. But in addition to the actual undertaking of the university's study, they also took some pretty