

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

February 10, 2004 LB 1049

me of one of the first deployments I attended here in Lincoln, and at that time, I ran into a gentleman after the ceremonies. He was out in the parking lot, and he and his whole family were there to see his son off. And he was talking about how fortunate his son was. His son was a principal at one of the high schools here in Nebraska--or maybe it was a middle school--and...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...he was, you know, making a pretty good salary, and he would have to take a pay cut going into the military. It was a substantial pay cut to go on active duty. And he had a family, he had children and a wife that he was supporting. And yet, this public school decided to make up the difference in his salary while he was serving. And that family considered that he was very fortunate to be able to maintain the salary while he was overseas. My point in telling this story is that these troops who are in the service on active duty are already making sacrifices in so many ways.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is now your time, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Not only in...financially, but in terms of being away from their family, in terms of all the kinds of stress, and other predicaments that go along with war time. So I think we're already asking enough of them. What I would say to Senator Cunningham is that, yes, there has been no public hearing on this. We're not talking about, however, very many people that we're actually going to be affecting. And if we can't do it this year, Senator Cunningham, then we have to wait till next year, when then there can be a public hearing. And meanwhile, we're rotating people out of active service continually as we go along. So if we can't do it this year on this bill, then it's going to be too late to do it, I would say. And that's making the assumption, of course, that we actually get this bill passed. But I want to get back to Senator Bourne's question and the compensation question. And it is my understanding that once a person is...has left active duty and active service and is back home, the only compensation that guardsmember gets is the compensation they get for going for the