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FLOOR DEBATE

February 25, 2004 LB 1049

that I have, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 766-775.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next item on...with respect to LB 1049, is a priority motion. Senator Louden would move to reconsider the vote taken with respect to AM2291.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Louden, you're recognized to open on your motion to reconsider the vote taken on AM2291.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I asked this motion be reconsidered yesterday, since there was quite a few senators gone from the Chamber there. And so I ask that this be reconsidered. And the amendment, AM2291, is about helping people who are on the lower scale of Social Security benefits. AM2291 is about helping people who are trying to be independent for as long as possible. These are people who need additional income to supplement their Social Security benefits. This would be people who will not be in the workforce for a long term. As statute dictates now, everyone receiving Social Security benefits will not receive full unemployment benefits if they apply. The premiums will be paid in, and a Social Security recipient will have one-half of their Social Security benefits deducted from the unemployment benefits. The cost to the Unemployment Trust Fund isn't excessive. The fiscal report from the Department of Labor legal counsel puts the cost at somewhere between \$60,000 and \$131,000 a year. The number of people that are affected isn't a large number. In 2002, they thought there was somewhere around 1,241 people that are...were drawing unemployment insurance and Social Security in Nebraska. AM2291 is a vehicle to help Social Security recipients be independent and productive. We should do what we can to allow people in their senior age group to be self-supporting, as long as they are willing and able to earn supplemental income. This is money well allocated when the benefits are considered, to the pride and dignity of the age group of the people of this group of citizens. I would urge the adoption of AM2291 to LB 1049. This is legislation that can improve the well-being of Social Security recipients in the