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FLOOR DEBATE

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what's happening to working people have made repeatedly during our discussion of this bill, on General File and now on Select File, and I will reemphasize that when it comes to working people, I'm going to do all that I can to keep them from being messed over. There are other people on this floor who, if they run for office, are going to try to get an endorsement from labor, and they will talk about being for the working people. But when we're on this floor and we have an opportunity to do something that will help the working people, they are as silent as a tomb. They are missing in action. But that's the way they choose to function. Such being the case, some of us who believe in helping working people just have to work a little harder, and for my part a lot longer. So whether it's this bill or some other bill, I'm going to be working the rest of this session. I have, on different bills, talked to people and given advice, some of it accepted which they found to have been on the target and beneficial. When it comes to a bill like this, they are not reciprocating. So there is no need for us to talk in terms of you scratch my back and I will scratch yours. It's a one-way street with me. I give and I will, but it doesn't work the other way. So I have to make up my mind that when there is a group which has no voice on this floor except a small coterie of people who will consistently speak for them, our approach has to be different. It means that we cannot say the odds appear to be overwhelming so we're going to quit before we start. That's what I understand was the position of the person hired by the labor people in Omaha. He didn't testify because there was so many people from business testifying for the bill. They have the most inept, incompetent lobbying that I've ever seen since I've been in the Legislature. If I was a member of a union, I'd tell them whatever part of my union dues go to hire lobbyists, I'd want that amount deducted because there is nobody down there speaking for labor. Those of you who are on committees where bills related to working people come up know that what I'm saying is true. So if there is not somebody or if there are not somebodies on this floor carrying the ball for working people, it's not going to be done. More is required than just saying it's good for people to work; people in Nebraska have a good work ethic. All of that, that's fine, but a point is reached when something must be done and this bill brings us to that point. Senator Landis pointed out, and maybe you'll remember he