

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

March 24, 2004 LB 1049

said it because it was not as long ago that he said it...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...compared to when Senator Bourne and others have. Nebraska is not generous. People are not going to say I will get so much for unemployment that I'm going to quit a job that is decent, where I'm being treated like a person, where my dignity is left intact. I'd rather get these few weeks of unemployment and then go get some other hardscrabble job. Those who don't know working people may find it comforting to accept such a stereotypical view, but I know that view is skewed. And because that view is skewed and it is the driving force behind Senator Cunningham's bill, I need to skewer his bill. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. We are on the debate on the bracket motion introduced by Senator Chambers. And, Senator Chambers, there are no further lights, so you are recognized to close on your motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the Legislature, Senator Landis mentioned his quandary, he didn't use that word, he said "in a difficult position" on this. He'll vote against the bracket. I don't know what he said he would do on cloture. Maybe he said he'd vote for cloture and then vote against the bill. Well, when you are in a military type situation, you deal with the enemy as soon, as expeditiously, as decisively as possible. To drag it out allows a loss of the day but a way to have it on all sides. This discussion on this bill could have gone on and on and on all day. I want to see if it can be brought to a head. Whatever is done, I'm not going to go away. If you don't vote to bracket, Senator Cunningham still has to guarantee you all that he has 30 votes for cloture...33 votes for cloture. If he gets his cloture vote, then we'll just see what happens after that. Nobody can say for sure. Maybe somebody will croak. Maybe the world will come to an end. If he does not get cloture, then the bill goes off the agenda. That's the way it will work. And Senator Landis won't have to vote one way or the other on advancing the bill nor will anybody else. Now if Senator Cunningham is not sure that he has