

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

April 2, 2004

LB 1241

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the motion to advance; we will discuss now. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this will be my last crack at those big shots who will not pay their late filing fees. After we had taken a vote to leave their names on record and not let the amount, which is close to \$26,000, be written off, an article appeared in what I would refer to the local daily if I were in Omaha, but so the record is clear, the Omaha World-Herald. The headline: Scott, Gupta, G-u-p-t-a, top donors to state political parties. I will deal only with Mr. Scott, because he is one of the deadbeats who will not pay his late filing fees. Walter Scott...well, let me read the first paragraph. "Two wealthy Omaha businessmen rank as the leading patrons of Nebraska's state political parties, according to a new study by a national campaign finance watchdog. Walter Scott Jr. of Omaha, former chief executive officer of Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc., contributed \$40,000 to the Nebraska Republican Party during the 2002 election cycle, while the company kicked in another \$20,000." Which totals out \$60,000. Now he can find money to give to the Republican Party, but he can't pay a debt due and owing to the state. Scott likewise has been a longtime supporter of the Republican Party in Nebraska. But in recent years he appears to have stepped up his level of contributions. Well, he has more to contribute to the party since he's not going to pay his honest debts other places. And what was some of this money going for? The party's efforts to organize, get out voters, and support their candidates; but not to pay debts. So I felt inspired, and I wrote a little rhyme to honor the three deadbeats, David Sokol, Michael Yanney, and Walter Scott. By the way, Scott ranks number one in contributions to the Republican Party; David Sokol ranks number five, and he gave \$20,000. So if you add up what these two guys gave to their party, it's \$80,000. But they couldn't pay their debt. This is called "Deadbeats Without Honor." Money, in abundance, they've got: Yanney, Sokol and Walter Scott. Honor--alas!--they haven't any: Sokol, Scott and Michael Yanney. World-class hypocrites (tho' local): Yanney, Scott and David Sokol. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further