

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

February 17, 2005 LB 96

together into one of their conventions, they say, there's only one thing on this earth that gets kicked around more than us and it's that black senator out there in Nebraska, wherever Nebraska is located; nothing and nobody gets kicked around as much as he does. But I must pick myself up, dust myself off, and start all over again. When you're in a lengthy battle, you have to pace yourself, and periodically I'm going to come back to specifics in the existing law with reference to this aid program and talk about some of the factors that will cause my colleagues to feel they have to support something like this, even though it is not fiscally wise at this time. I read in the paper where Senator Don Pederson said that, although the projections as far as the state's revenue coming in are a bit less bleak, discipline must be exercised by the Legislature. It ought to be exercised starting here, on this bill. But if this one goes through, others ought to have that same opportunity. And whereas I will not support every new spending bill, I might do what I can to put my colleagues in a frame of mind to support them. I'm even going to offer a different name for this bill before we get through with it, and I wanted Senator Connealy to be here. You can take your seat if you want to, Senator Connealy. (Laugh) I'm going to name this bill the cousin to the ethanol boondoggle. That's all it is, a boondoggle. This bill does not deserve to be passed. I think 75 percent tuition forgiveness or credits constitutes more than is justified. You all are looking at an aberration that occurred with reference to the National Guard and you're going to exploit it. You're like those people who sell these little yellow ribbons that are magnetized and people stick them all over their cars, and these different colored ribbons. You think they are selling those ribbons to you all because they care about people in Iraq? If they cared about the soldiers, they'd be saying like me, bring them home.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You made a mistake. And like Sorensen said, America has become a meanspirited country and lost its status as a noble nation. Now, I never thought it was noble, but he's a white guy and he can think that because good things happen to him and his kind; bad things happen to me and mine. Mr. President, let's see how much they want to punish me. I