

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

February 24, 2005 LB 71

given, divided among those who are going under is not going to save a one of them. This kind of approach is not going to stop the number of farms from declining. A so-called small farm, whatever that is, medium-sized farm, whatever that is, is not a viable economic entity in terms of earning a living. If you run a farm and you have to get a job in a nonfarm capacity, that farm is not producing enough money to sustain you and your family. I don't know why people in the agricultural sector won't discuss these realities when they come with a bill like this that could amount to a boondoggle. You might be able to delay for a period of time somebody from going under and having to go find a job or move out of that area which is not economically viable and go someplace where you can find a job. Young people leave certain areas of Nebraska and leave this state because the opportunities are not there, but also there is so much hatefulness, so much narrow-mindedness. I wish you could have heard some of the Christians who came and spoke against a bill that was designed to protect gay and lesbian people from discrimination in employment. They're coming there preaching all this Christianity, but they don't believe everybody in Nebraska should be protected under the law from employment discrimination.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then I have a bill like this come before us which does not deal with any of the issues that will relate to how Nebraska is judged by those outside of the state who might want to come here. If you had a company and some of your top officials are gay or lesbian and they say, we can't go to Nebraska because of their narrow-minded, hateful attitude, then these same people want to come here and present something like this and expect me to go along with it? Uh-uh, we're going to start dealing on the floor. You support nondiscrimination in employment and I'll support something like this. I don't know if you've got 33 votes for this bill, but I've been rubbed the wrong way and if you've got 33 votes for this, more power to you. It will mean that the ag people have finally found a way to get together and consolidate some strength, and I had to get kicked in the teeth as a result, but I would hope that that attitude carries over into other things. But I've got to