

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

March 3, 2005

LB 53

prison as you and I think of prison? No. She served in a corrections program. She's in the process of paying back \$42,000. Is that appropriate? Is that an appropriate punishment? No. And I understand the constraints of the system. Who's going to be disenfranchised throughout this whole thing? The taxpayer will be disenfranchised, because this person has hardly served a sentence reflective of her crime. The taxpayer is being disenfranchised, and law-abiding citizens, I believe, are being disenfranchised, because her right to vote will be automatically restored under LB 53. Automatically. Now, statute of limitations on this particular crime goes back three years. They think that she was dipping out of the till, as some would call it, for eight years, feeding extra money into her husband's paycheck, who was also an employee of the district, feeding extra money into her paycheck, intimidating staff within the school district who had questions about their own paycheck. Do I want to base public policy on one crime committed across Nebraska? No. But there are others. And I would say, if we're really all about civil rights and restoring civil rights, let's try restoring all of them appropriately through changing the constitution. But I would venture to say that there are some folks in here who do not want to restore the right to own a gun to some violent criminals. Perhaps that's appropriate.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: But I object to automatically restoring the voting rights. Just voting rights; not other civil rights, just voting rights. And that's why I maintain that this is a political move. And I hope that you will vote red on LB 53. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Combs, Friend, Kruse, and Brown, and Smith. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when people are acting out of political or emotional motivation, they make statements that are inaccurate. First of all, to what Senator Smith was talking about. And while he was talking,