

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

March 22, 2005

LB 739

weeks. If a person is discharged, the range of punishment is seven weeks to ten weeks. I told Senator Cunningham that I would agree to raise the seven to ten weeks in both situations--voluntarily leaving, and being discharged. There would be no range of seven to ten; it would be ten weeks, period, a flat ten weeks' disqualification. That is a punishment of a worker. That means that the individual who leaves voluntarily without good cause is going to be punished. To say that seven weeks without income is not punishment can be said only by a person who is independently wealthy, being taken care of by somebody else, or is just a meanspirited, hardhearted individual who has never confronted a set of circumstances where there was no income and no way to obtain it. He cannot accept that, because business is pulling his chain. This session, business is going to try to run the Legislature. You all know that Nebraska's population is not large. You know that they have what they call a brain drain, and a young people drain, people leaving the state. With that happening, which means fewer people paying taxes, business comes in here and demands even greater exemption from paying taxes. And this Legislature is expected to give it. That Cabela bill is one of the worst things that has come before the Legislature in the form of giveaways. But I understand that's to be the vehicle that business will use. And they've got their 33 votes, they feel, to get the Legislature to do that. So you're going to give away the store to business, in that regard. And I'll fight you on that harder than I'm fighting you here, and I'll tie it into other bills. Here you're taking away from the worker to help business. Somehow, you who will never be in business, will never enjoy what these big business people that you're sucking up to enjoy, will identify with them and punish people who are more like you or like your children will be or like circumstances you came through when you were growing up. But the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...working people should not be forgotten. People around here always want to praise business for providing jobs. But they never look at the people who work those jobs, often under conditions that are unsafe, where there might be