

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

March 22, 2005      LB 739

one of these nickel-and-dime jobs, you work harder and you have to conform to a more rigid standard than people making far more money than you're making or you will ever make. In this society it shouldn't be that way, but the value of a person often is determined by how much he or she is paid. And in this society, people are not paid what their labor is worth, let alone what they'd be worth as a human being on the open market. Senator Stuhr has been talking to me about trying to get the Judiciary Committee to advance some bill that sets up a task force to study the problem of trafficking in human beings, but she and others cannot apply that to what we're talking about here--trafficking in human beings, putting them on the market, selling their labor and, at the same time, selling them. But there are some of us who do see it that way. You won't see editorials written on behalf of the working people. Maybe around Labor Day they'll say, well, it's time for our obligatory acknowledgement that without these working people we couldn't have a Labor Day, and all these festivities and all the advertisements that people buy from the newspaper. Then, after Labor Day is over, they go back to the way things always have been, and people who may have had a moment of surcease, of sorrow, during that Labor Day holiday,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...have to go back to that drudge work and know that it's going to be that way for another year, if they survive on the job for a year. Some people have worked on jobs and they know it's not the easiest thing to do in trying to get through this world, pay for your upkeep and take care of your family. All this talk of family means nothing. Where are all those people who talk about being concerned for the family when we're talking about penalizing workers in this way? You don't hear them, because they're one-issue people. Their church hasn't told them to get on over there and say something. If the bishop, if the pastor, if the rabbi told them, go over there and speak on this issue, then they'd be popping up, like Jack out of the boxes, talking, because they don't think and they don't care. But I think. I do care, and I'm going to take some time. Mr. President, I would ask for a call of the house.