

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

April 6, 2005

LB 689A

different?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes, everyone should...there should be respect for everyone.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you believe that people who might have a different sexual orientation should have the same opportunity to earn a living like everybody else by getting a job? You're hesitating. The Catholic Church teaches, and they're mourning the Pope now, that everybody has a right to earn a living and get the wherewithal to take care of his or her family. So if you're going to be honoring the Pope--not you specifically--but if there's going to be all this mourning about the Pope, and the church teaches about the right of all people to earn a living, certainly we couldn't be in favor of discriminating against people, could we? I guess I'm talking to myself now. But that's what often happens around here in this Legislature. I'm talking to myself. But there are people who understand what I'm talking about. There are people who are victimized in a way that is unfair. And when I'm out of this Legislature, these issues will never be discussed on this floor again. It will be the ending of an era. And I know a great sigh of relief will rise throughout this state. They don't have to think about these things anymore. They can pretend that people with these problems...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and who are mistreated in this way do not exist. They can be reduced to the level of animals, as happens when these bills are discussed before the Judiciary Committee. And people on that committee will vote against legislation that would protect the right of people to earn a living in this state. Then they'll stand on this floor and pontificate and talk about protecting fetuses, carrying hidden pistols. But they don't care about the fact that people are not allowed to earn a living and are discriminated against, can be openly discriminated against, and the law provides them no protection. And they're proud of Nebraska, because they hope someday everybody can carry a hidden pistol. That is the big thing in this state. And it is tragic, and it is pathetic. But as long