

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

May 9, 2005

LB 312

come anyway. These big companies aren't able to just decide in one minute that tomorrow we're going to go to Omaha. They had planned to come here, but they know they have such a cast of suckers that they don't have to worry. We always say that one Legislature cannot bind a future Legislature. These big companies have smart lawyers. They wanted this stuff done on a contractual basis so that they could bind future Legislatures. The U.S. Constitution, the Nebraska Constitution prohibit any laws that impair the obligation of contracts. So when those big business people and Reagan, Bush and others are criticizing lawyers and telling all of the demeaning lawyer jokes, they don't mean the kind of lawyers that work for business and can get Legislatures to bind themselves because they're so foolish and shortsighted. The quality of life has not measurably improved in this state and that does trouble me. But like I say, I will take my lumps. I'm accustomed to that. But I'm not going to stand on this floor and just roll over and let all of this stuff go by simply because the Legislature has been coopted, and coopted it has been. When I first came down here, there were people who made it appear that the Legislature had a conscience.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All of that's long gone. Business rules. The business of business is business, and that business is to make as much money as possible with as little expenditure as possible. The business of America, said a former President, whose name you might know but you won't know of him, the business of America is business. Maybe for some people, but I have not fallen into that. Maybe I'm just too old, maybe I'm just too stubborn, or maybe I'm just too idealistic and principled. I don't believe that the welfare of the people ought to be sacrificed to the greed of business, and that's what we're looking at and the "ruralies" are going to find out they were suckered once again. Mark my words. The pockets of poverty will not be touched. I guarantee it and so does business. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. We go now to the next speaker, Senator Connealy.