

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

May 10, 2005

LB 614A

individuals and bump...I mean a group of individuals and put them in a different classification so that they're available to higher salaries. It's one of those two things that we should have done. When we get involved with picking individuals and not changing the job level of those jobs, but picking individuals and allowing them to come to this body and adjust the salaries outside of collective bargaining, that's all we're going to be doing in the future. We are going to be doing it for every single group that wants to make a case to us, and that's all we're going to be spending our time doing. And I think that there are two ways that we can address this. We can make some exception as to the number of discretionary employees that the department has and allow them to be discretionary and take them out of collective bargaining, or we can adjust, and that has to be done through a process through the Personnel Department, to adjust them to a higher level, a higher grade level within the collective bargaining. But once we get into the business of picking and choosing, that's all we're going to be doing, and collective bargaining is not going to exist in the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, a bargain is a bargain. Senator Brown and I don't often see eye to eye on matters of this nature. But she was very clear in her explanation, and I agree with what she said. I believe in collective bargaining. But I believe in unions, even though unions have not been fair to black people. Unions are as discriminatory against black people as management, sometimes even more so. The electricians' union has been notorious, and the plumbers' union, and bricklayers, and all of them, in excluding black people. But the concept of a union--workers using their numbers to try to improve working conditions and compensation and even benefits--is a concept that I agree with. There has been a bloody history in this country of union busting, even the utilization of federal troops, who shot down in cold blood union workers and those who were striking. So I am not speaking against the concept of unions. But I'm not the best friend of the unions, because they have not been the best friends of my people, never have been, probably never will be.