

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

May 10, 2005

LB 90

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yeah, \$750,000.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: So make it \$1 million even. You know, I'd like...I have the A bill right here. And I'm still fiscally conservative. I'm still frugal.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Let me offer it. I will offer it. I'm the radical. Let me offer it and fight for it. You just tell me that you won't fight against me.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I won't fight against you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Then we've got it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Don Pederson, followed by Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. It's always difficult to talk about rural initiatives, because by nature, everybody wants to have a program that will help people in the rural areas. The problem is that there is a...there are a multitude of programs already going on. I don't know how many of you receive or pay attention to the fact...the University of Nebraska Rural Initiative and Cooperative Extension Organization, they give these to you practically weekly, that tell about various programs that there are for helping rural initiatives through the university. And to hear the proposal of Senator Cunningham, it appears that nothing is being done, when in fact a great deal is being done for rural programs. We've had a number of bills in the Legislature that...my good friend, former Senator Jerry Matzke, had a bill that Governor Johanns wanted, which was to have rural development take place. And he asked me if I would sign on, and I said, no, I think it's a dumb bill. Why do you think it's a dumb bill? Because it isn't going to go anywhere. Well, I think it was last year that we did away with the program because there was never an applicant for the program. So I think we have to start looking at what we are really doing, and not deceiving ourselves and the public into thinking that in fact we are doing something beneficial to the rural community. When it