

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

May 10, 2005

LB 500

a huge operation, from what I've heard, praised, venerated, revered, all over the world. But they can't make it in this area near Omaha without the state giving them these concessions. But if the state gives them the concessions, pays all their legal expenses, all their engineering expenses, all of their planning expenses, buying, leasing, benches, trees, lights...there's stuff in this bill which I think people ought to read. Then...right, barbecues, Senator Bourne. I think that's what you said. Whatever they...somebody pointed out that most of what they're selling consists of clothing, and that's entertainment and tourism? Some people who supported this bill through their words know better than that, but they have to pretend that's not the case. They have to pretend. And when ordinarily honest people are put in a set of circumstances where they have to pretend, something is wrong. But they should not lay aside their honesty. Call this bill what it is and either support it or don't support it. But don't hide behind the pretense that it is about tourism and entertainment, because it's not. It's about destroying competition and giving this big operation an unfair advantage by giving benefits from the state that would go to nobody else in retail. I'm the one who is probably laughed to scorn because I thought it would make more sense to offer some assistance to retail establishments in small Nebraska towns which are going to die, the towns are going to die. So you could make, I thought, a compelling argument that we could deviate from the principle of not helping retail establishments by saying, these are unique circumstances,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and by giving this assistance, essential services are made available to people who would otherwise not have them. But the body said no, because that's little people. Your people out in the rural areas, you said no. Then here's "Caballa's" and, just like the people at Ak-Sar-Ben when they had their ball, you are so bedazzled that all the stuff you talked the rest of the time goes out the window, which shows that those things are flawed. Instead of being gold, I find out they're the base metal of fraud and misrepresentation. I'm going to fight the bill. I don't know that it has the clout that that one had last night. I'd like to ask to ask Senator