

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

May 11, 2005

LB 425

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Louden, on the Erdman amendment.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Yeah, I've been somewhat amazed this afternoon how we go about some of this stuff. If the right folks are around, I mean, we can shoot...we talk about our gambling, our compulsive gambling, we can shoot \$15 million out here on a guess, I guess, because we're going to do some...something in the future that might work and might not work. We're going to train some people that might be around, and maybe they won't. Maybe they'll stay and maybe the employers that hire them and use that money might keep them on, and maybe they won't, because there was only 75 percent of them have to be full-time employees. The rest can be part-time. And all kinds of little ifs and ands about it, and yet here you have some chance on some of these, you talk about doing rural development or something for rural areas, and these are your smaller rural counties that would receive this money and this is something that you know would make a difference. This would...this would probably alleviate some property taxes up there. And no matter how you cut it, we know that the property taxes in these smaller counties in the rural areas is eating their lunch. That's all there is to it. The valuations are going up every year, mostly because probably outside people are purchasing land and the way the valuations are set up in Nebraska, that's comparable sales are used for valuations, so your valuations go up every year. Your property tax increases considerably every year, and this is what's happening to them. There's people that are probably their property taxes jumped again another 7 percent in some of the counties. It was in the papers we have out there. We also have where over the past five or six years a lot of the property taxes went up 25 percent. Anyway, this is some way that you probably could do some good for somebody and we would see it happen in front of us. Instead, we've elected to shoot money on some of the grander schemes. I guess we have these great plans and great ideas, or whatever they are, and I don't know if we have complete plans or they're halfway plans, however you want to describe it. But I think Senator Erdman certainly has a valid idea here. If you can shoot some of this money out like