

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

May 12, 2005

LB 683A

will diminish. So, I'm going to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...stick with what we've done, and I hope others will do the same. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Erdman, followed by Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I just figured out why Senator Chambers...why he offered the amendment on LB 683. He's running for Governor. (Laughter) No, that's not it. He's looking forward to those debates, I might add. Look, I honestly could care less what other states are paying. Senator Chambers has used that argument in the past on other issues. I'm here there...I'm here now. Who cares? What do we think we should pay the chief executive officer of the state of Nebraska? Is it \$60,000? Is it \$80,000? Is it \$98,000? What's the number? Put it in the bill and let's vote for it, and you know how, Senator Redfield, you get that passed? You get the Governor to sign it, because the Governor will be responsible for others, just like he is on other pieces of legislation, and just like we are. And so whether it's this Governor, future Governors, past Governors, I...this game has to stop. We as legislators have to vote to put it on the ballot, to ask ourselves...ask the public to give us pay raise. So at some point I'm thinking, why do we keep doing everybody else's dirty work, when they won't do it for themselves and say, you're right, this is good for the office. It doesn't necessarily affect me personally. It's the right thing to do. Thirty votes are not...that's what should happen. But you're right. We might need to look and see how many we do have, and if we're overstepping our bounds, we need to make sure that the votes are there. But I don't care what Iowa pays; I don't care what South Dakota pays; I don't care what California pays, or what their Governor doesn't take because he's got millions on his own. It does not matter. What should we pay? Let's vote for that, let's send it to the Governor, let's see what he does, and then when it comes back here--because he's probably going to veto it--let's do what we need to do. Thank