

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

May 25, 2005

LB 478

a special, elitist group. Continuing, since 1997, the Defense Department has collected only about \$687,000.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Quote, the Pentagon needs to start targeting more firepower on the management side, on fraud and abuse in the system, and go after the thousands of defense contractors that routinely renege on paying their taxes, said Senator Norm Coleman, "Repelican" from Minnesota. I'll continue during my closing. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, there are no further lights on. So the Chair recog...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then I'll continue. Those waiting to exhale may do so now. (Exhales) You're welcome.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Are you closing, Senator?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I was letting everybody exhale. I'm going to close now. Quote, why is the Department of Defense, which is among the most sophisticated purchasers of goods and services of all federal departments, continuing to do business with these companies, asked Senator Susan Collins, also a "Repelican." What's with these "Repelicans" concerned about graft and corruption and unpaid taxes by corporations? They're rare birds amongst the "Repelicans." Let me continue. The Internal Revenue Service also failed to move aggressively against contractors with unpaid taxes, the GAO concluded. In some cases, a tight budget and mounting workload prevented the tax agency from pursuing the contractors. Senator Carl Levin, "Demagogue" from Michigan, said, the missteps at the two agencies mean thousands of contractors take home taxpayer dollars but fail to pay the taxes they owe. And these...this is the category of persons you all are so eager to help. And they're going to bring great things to Nebraska. What are they going to bring, Senator Redfield? How not to pay your income taxes? How not to forward the Social Security withholding to the government? That's what they're going to bring? And Nebraska needs that? I disagree. Continuing, tax dodging hurts