

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

February 28, 2006 LB 75

Omaha convention center, and it's been prioritized by Senator Brown. So I said, since the Lincoln senator sticks his nose in an area that affects my constituents directly in north Omaha, I'm going to oppose anything for Lincoln. I don't hide my intentions. I made it crystal-clear. And Senator Landis was sitting there when I said it. I said, I want to say it to the face of the person to whom it's addressed. People on this floor don't pay attention to what I say, and that's why they don't know. But I don't mind repeating it. And with what I intend to do on this bill, I have the opportunity to repeat it again and again and again. So how would Senator Landis' bill affect my constituents? I had argued against that convention center, saying that since general obligation bonds had to be pledged, and as everybody knows, general obligation bonds are backed by the credit of the city, and if taxes have to be raised to pay those bonds off, the taxes will be raised.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It's now your time, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. With that obligation being put in place, north Omaha and south Omaha would suffer. Senator Brashear tried to get the Legislature to agree to a proposition that would offer some kind of economic development in north Omaha, and it was crushed by the Legislature. North Omaha did not count. You all don't remember it because it doesn't affect you, and black people don't count in this state or in this Legislature. So what they started talking about in the city of Omaha was some one-stop center of some kind where a number of matters could be taken care of. It was in the nature of a mall. Well, as could be anticipated, that fell through, and it never was done. So now here comes Senator Landis to take state money to bail out a project which has fallen on hard days, just as I said it would. But Senator Landis negotiated it and got the Legislature to go along, because he was against it at first, then when he was put in the position of the negotiator, he bailed out the city of Omaha. Brad Ashford was one deeply involved in that. I don't forget. So I'm going to fight that bill, and I had said I'll fight Lincoln bills. And you'll notice, the ones defending LB 75 are Lincoln senators. And despite what Senator Beutler says and how he wants to characterize it, this is as much a Lincoln bill as anything that