

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

March 1, 2006

LB 478

worth nearly \$3 million in Bellevue. The building, which will open Monday, after a recent renovation, will serve as headquarters for BAE's local staff of 168 engineers, software designers, and technicians. Its employees provide support to StratCom on a wide range of programs, including missile defense, intelligence gathering, and data management. The company is not planning to bring any more jobs to the area in the near future, said Benjamin, his last name spelled B-e-e-d-e, a spokesman for BAE, but a briefing provided to Bellevue Mayor Jerry Ryan noted that the facility could expand to employ more than 200 employees over the next five years. BAE is the latest international defense contractor to open a local headquarters in the Omaha metro area. Lockheed Martin, Science Applications International Corp., and Raytheon all have offices in the same complex as BAE's with new...BAE's new facility just off Nebraska Highway 370 and northwest of Offutt Air Force Base. As StratCom's mission has grown over the past several years, the presence of defense contractors in the region has also grown. Boeing, Booz-Allen Hamilton, and Northrop Grumman have all opened new facilities in the region in the past three years, and Northrop Grumman has a brand-new facility on Highway 370. BAE Systems, based in the United Kingdom, employs more than 90,000 people worldwide and generates \$25 billion in sales every year. Now, if this exemption is so important and all these people are fleeing Nebraska because they don't have this exemption, why are these international companies opening up facilities in that Bellevue area? You think they're just going to come here blindfolded? Senator Cornett got a bad bill dumped on her and some people have voted for it so far because they like Senator Cornett, and some of you have told me that, and you ought to come clean on the floor.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I'm going to fight this all the way. And in that handout that I gave you, where it expressed some of the opposition that was articulated on the floor, you see where I pointed out that if she gets cloture on this bill, I'm putting other bills in my sight and I'm doing it on behalf of the veterans who are being declared by this Legislature unworthy of the breaks given to these elitists who, because of the job they