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March 8, 2006

LB 542

SENATOR CUDABACK: Now, Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on FA541.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. This is amendment FA541, the bill is LB 542, and the amendment I am amending, which has become the bill, is AM7136. It would say, on page 2,...are you with me now, Senator Burling, which I think you were at first?

SENATOR BURLING: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: In line 19, I would strike the word "nearby." Then on line 20, after the word "states," I would insert the words "having demographics similar to those of Nebraska." And this is the way that language would read: "compared to the United States as a whole and states having demographics similar to those of Nebraska and recommend improvements." Do you at least see where the amendment is and what it says?

SENATOR BURLING: Yes, sir.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Burling. Now I'm going to proceed. The reason I am offering this amendment, initially, is to make sure that we give some guidance and direction to this commission so that they will know what it is we're asking them to do. They need some direction which they may not have had from the simple words "nearby states." What kind of comparison is being made here? You would have to ask the introducer, but I think the design is to find out what is happening with the tax policies in states similarly situated to Nebraska. The reason I say that, we find the words "and make recommendations" after all of this comparing that is supposed to take place. There is no purpose in having comparisons and making recommendations if there is not something to be learned from these states with which Nebraska is being compared. I say again, I don't like this bill. I think it is unnecessary. The money to be expended will be wasted. But if the body is of a mind to enact this bill, we should do to it what is necessary to improve it. My language, I believe, will improve the bill. It will not hurt it in any regard, unless we're facing that situation that the "Holly Bible" spoke of in one of Jesus' parables where he talked about taking a piece of cloth that is new and repairing a