

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

March 8, 2006

LB 542

this is the type of thing which never would be supported. Now maybe if I was bailing out of here at the end of this session, I might say, spend all this money, put some senators on there, it's a way to teach them. What the Legislature can do is arrange seminars, if it is of a mind to instruct new senators. If you would take the time, which most people probably don't feel like doing at this point, to look at the listing of the special interest groups which will be part of the membership of this commission, you will readily see that it is not an environment conducive to instructing new people about a subject of which they may be profoundly ignorant. You're going to have the arguing back and forth: ag is taxed too much, industry should not have to pay taxes, business should not have to pay taxes. Nothing of value is going to be produced, and I don't think you need to spend \$250,000 to confirm that assessment. I don't think there would be more than ten people, if that many, on this floor who think that if this study is undertaken that wiser, "juster" tax policy for the state of Nebraska is going to result. This is not a gathering of scholars who are being asked to collaborate on an academic venture which will be completed when each participant contributes his or her part, then somebody fulfills the function of an editor to go through it all, throw out what may not be of value, organize it, and try to make something at least somewhat coherent out of all of it. That's not what this is. It is being represented as something that will result in better tax policy. When this bill itself mentions existing studies that have been undertaken, it acknowledges that the information is there now. So you're going to spend \$250,000 to get some people together to pull some dusty studies off some dusty shelves and look at them. For what purpose? Hire one person, if you must undertake an exercise of this kind, and let that person read through all these studies and try to come up with a compilation from all of them,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and submit it to the Legislature. How many studies have been undertaken by the Legislature itself which have resulted in nothing? I don't believe this bill ought to be advanced. I don't think it ought to be enacted into law. Thank you, Mr. President.