

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

March 23, 2006 LB 1060

in minority recruitment and minority diversity training for the police. They resent it. They don't want it. But the only way they can get some money is to swallow spit and accept it. What they need to realize is that I would even work with the chief if he would be straightforward, honest, and do the job that he should. I've been trying to talk to Mayor Fahey. They are the ones who don't want to be forthright. And they think they can ace their way around everything that I'm trying to get done. But nothing that I try to get done in Omaha redounds to my personal benefit. I'm not running for another office. I don't have to campaign for this office. I don't accept contributions from people in my community. I don't accept contributions from lobbyists or anybody else. So there's nothing that I want, except fair treatment and justice for the people in Omaha who are not getting it, and a lot of that is because of the wrongful conduct of the police. And I'm glad they've got a representative out there. I'm not like some of these people from the rest of Nebraska, when they say a sheriff is out there. I want Dunning to know what I'm saying. I want the chief to know. I want the police union to know. They might have everybody else running scared, but I'm not. And I want them to know it, and I want to say it to their face. This is a serious problem confronting black people in Omaha. And it's clear I'm not going to get assistance down here in the Legislature, so I have to do what I'm able to do, and that's what I'm trying to do here. I said facetiously when I was having a little conversation with Senator Bourne or somebody over there under the balcony, give peace a chance, p-e-a-c-e. Everybody wants peace, generally speaking, serenity, and an easy life devoid of friction and conflict. That's what I prefer. But the life that I live and the road that my feet follow will not allow that. You develop rough edges, jagged corners, and a hard life makes a hard man.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that's what I have to be down here, and that's what I will be down here, because I have no other choice. It is a cliché, Mr. President, that when all you're given to work with is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. And I know how to put the head of the hammer on the head of the nail. And