

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 24, 2006 LB 994

SENATOR CUDABACK: That, too, is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have, Senator Johnson, AM2832. I have a note you wish to withdraw that, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Johnson would move to amend with AM2866. (Legislative Journal pages 1163.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Johnson, you're recognized to open, AM2866.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the body, this morning we will more or less finish up on LB 994. What we're talking about here this morning is an effort to prevent the introduction of counterfeit drugs into the pharmaceutical distribution. The reason that we have had the change in the amendments is that we have worked on this bill for nearly two years. All of the pharmaceutical distributors, the wholesale distributors, have been very cooperative in this. The problem has been that there are many ways to skin the cat, as we've found, and so what...the reason for the change is that we had so many amendments to the amendment that counsel Jeff Santema for Health and Human Services was kind enough to put these all under one amendment. All of the people that are affected by this wholesale distributor act all began with saying, we are in support of this measure that you're putting forth; we just have particular problems that affect us, and so could you make this slight adjustment? All of these people that did come forth in this matter, without exception, we felt had a legitimate reason for doing this. So let's just talk just a little bit about what has happened. First of all, all of you, I think, will remember that three years ago in Lexington, Nebraska, there was a repackaging of the drug Lipitor--18 million capsules of Lipitor. This case is still being litigated, but there is a good chance that there were substitutions for the real thing. Nebraska is one of the seven states that doesn't license wholesale distributors. Now what we have attempted to do by going so slow