

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

March 29, 2006 LB 239

legal aid to assist these individuals to arrive at or to become legal residents. We, again, are poised to spend in excess of \$300,000 in a combination of General Funds and dedicated \$1 court fee from our court fees that individuals pay for Legal Aid of Nebraska, which is fine. They do good work. However, they are distinctly prohibited from doing any legal immigration work. So while we can get up and say it's a carrot, you know, we don't want to lead these kids on. We don't want them to think that they could become doctors and lawyers in our state, or parole officers, or whatever it might be, whatever their aspirations are, but yet at the same time we're providing legal assistance that will do no good in this area. I think we, you know, we are poised, again, this is on Final Reading, we're poised to spend or to appropriate an enormous amount of resources that will not address any of these concerns. Thank you. And thank you, Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman and Senator Synowiecki. Senator Jensen, followed by Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, members of the Legislature, and thank you, Mr. President. You know, one of our senior senators quite often quotes from a book and he has said this many times: The poor you will have with you always. And you think about that, and if we don't ever give the poor the tools to come out of that poverty, they never will. They can't. I had the real privilege of reading a book and, boy, if I could ever advise anyone to read a book that is quite revealing, it was The World is Flat by Robert (sic) Friedman, and I think any legislator, that should be on his must-read list. But one of the things he talks about levelers. What are levelers? Levelers are what makes somebody in Bangladesh equal with somebody in the United States. Computer information technology can become level. Well, again, education is really the only leveler between the rich and the poor, between the underprivileged and the privileged. It's education. I wouldn't have said that, you know, ten years ago, but it...(laugh) I have heard of the G.I. Bill...but it is something that I find is absolutely true. And I've been a supporter of education when I have seen this. And I've seen individuals come from poverty, but with education they can rise above that. You know, there's one other thing