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FLOOR DEBATE

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about this, and I want you to think about this. If a husband and a wife come up here, for whatever reasons, with two children, yes, they're illegal. And then while they're here they have two more children. Those become citizens; they were born here. What a deal. So you have a family with four children: two can go on to college, can go on to schools; two cannot. I think that is one thing that is absolutely unfair. Now all of us at one time or another came to this country, our heritage, our grandparents, our great-grandparents, whatever, and, yes, there was a different system there. And we have a number of people that want to come to the United States and they want to come because there are opportunities here. You know, if you stop to think about it, a college graduate, statistics tell us, will earn \$10,000 a year more than one who goes just K through 12 and stops. We need to give them opportunities and then, yes, they will become taxpayers and we will get a return on those dollars. As a businessman, everything I look at in the Legislature I look at the bottom line, and I look at that the best I can in the financial resources of an individual, and what is really best; what is the root causes of some of the problems that we have here in the state. But I will tell you, if you have an individual without an education, they are in slavery. And, yes, some rise above it, but it becomes much, much more difficult. And so I told Senator Schimek, and I think she was somewhat surprised, that I would support this bill because I think it is right. I have some of my peers who say, well, how can you do that; why do you want to reward an illegal? I want to reward the children. How they got here, really, that doesn't bother me as much, but I think that if they're here, if they want to strive and work, we're not giving them...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...anything for nothing. They're still going to have to pay a tuition, and that tuition can help a lot of our colleges and universities in this state. I would just ask that you advance LB 239. It is the right thing to do. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Janssen, followed by Senator Flood and about 14 others.