

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

April 13, 2006

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. We have Senator Tom Baker, Senator Pat Bourne, Senator Dennis Byars, Senator Matt Connealy, Senator Bob Kremer, Senator Marian Price, Senator Adrian Smith who's not here, and Senator Nancy Thompson. I knew they would do that. I knew they would do that. Time. We now have class of 1996, and that would be Senator Don Pederson. Senator Pederson, would you please come forward?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I know each of us has thought we were in a class by ourselves. Now it's certified. I am in a class by myself. (Laughter) Doug and I, so I don't know how this happened exactly. But you know, ten years ago I came into the Legislature, and at that time I thought...ten years ago, and now the time has just gone. Well, alternately, it's gone just like lightning and like it was in tar. You know, we spent hours and hours and hours, and I can remember when I first got here, the first several years, I would go out in the lobby and I'd say, Don, what are you doing here? There are things that you could do at home. Why are you standing here doing this? And many of you, I'm sure, had that same feeling. Why are you even here? And then I got to thinking. As time has moved on, I realized why we're here. We are here to do really important things. We are here to pass laws and to help, hopefully, all of the people making up 1.7 million people of the state of Nebraska. We're in a representative capacity. We are...and I've said this before many times. I may be a senator from North Platte, but I'm a senator for the state of Nebraska. I think we all have to remember that at all times. We're representing the entire state. And as I was thinking about how we represent the state, I thought, you know, we're not appreciated, and I think many of us have had that feeling. People do not understand what we do in this body. And I thought, why is that do you suppose? And I really believe that it's for two main reasons. One is that we pass laws that restrict people's lives in some way. We've seen that the last few days. It changes the course of people's lives. And the other one is the dreaded word, t-a-x. We pass tax laws. And so these are two things that people can all have an opinion about. But unfortunately, they very seldom inform themselves as to what you're doing and why you're doing it. So I wish that the whole state could have been here to have heard