

SPEAKER WITHEM: LB 144 is advanced. LB 20, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 20, introduced by Senator Chambers. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 5 of this year, at that time referred to the Business and Labor Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President..

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers, to open on your bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is a bill which is based on a problem that has developed in Nebraska. It exists to some extent in Kansas and in Iowa, but Iowa has passed a bill on which this one is modeled which deals with most of the problems that LB 20 would confront or attempt to resolve. Last Friday I placed on your desks a legal-sized packet of articles done by the World-Herald which documents the problems as they have begun to develop not only in Omaha, it focused on Omaha, but there are problems of this kind that have developed in other parts of the state, North Platte to some extent, Lexington, perhaps Grand Island. Norfolk is having and has had very serious problems as a result of this difficulty. What I'm talking about is the practice of large meat packing companies to go to the southwestern part of the state, the southern part of Texas especially along the Mexican border to recruit workers to work in these plants. The problem is that they are not told exactly the type of work that they're going to do, the hours they will work, the wages they will be paid, dangers that may attend the job as well as the possibility and really the likelihood that after being here a short time they're going to encounter difficulties that the company will not confront. What has happened is that when these workers come and the articles in Omaha pointed it out specifically, they wind up in substandard housing which is held in conjunction with the company that brings them here. After they have been there a couple of weeks, they are forced to move to make room for another group who are brought in, and in the Omaha situation, the workers don't come here by happenstance, a van is actually sent to Texas to pick them up. The company, and not only this one, but others, will have agents who recruit these workers and notify them that these jobs are available in Nebraska and the misrepresentation is rife. As a result of the fact that these people come here not knowing the kind of work they will undertake, they don't last long on these jobs. Many of the