

which 200 out of the 1,200 workers were found to be illegal aliens and deported. Monford is owned by ConAgra. Excel and ConAgra both have received tax breaks under LB 775, and the point that was made at that time and the point I am making today, is it seems totally inappropriate to have tax incentive legislation for companies to encourage them to hire workers and then to see those workers not being Nebraskans, not even being legal residents of our country, but, in fact, be illegal aliens exploited by being brought up here from, I think, primarily from Mexico to participate in these jobs. The article that I passed out to you by Lourdes Gouveia, a UNC Sociologist, that was presented at the hearing we had last year on this measure, this issue came up last year, LB 794. If you have a chance to look at that, I hope you will because what it talks about, it primarily focuses on the meat packing industry, although it is possible that any business may have illegal aliens. It seems to be concentrated in the meat packing industry. There we have seen a systematic, almost, exploitation of these workers, as you can see from the material that's been passed out, where because of the poor working conditions, the poor wages involved in meat packing plants, and the situation of using these people, and turning around and when the INS says, have you got any illegal aliens, saying, well, we don't know, but if you want to come on in, we'll cooperate. And then the INS comes in, raids the plant, finds the illegal aliens, sends them off, and what happens to the company for having hired the illegal aliens? What happens is they get no fines. For having cooperated with the INS, they, basically, are exonerated from paying any penalty for having hired these individuals. So in my view, the situation continues, the cycle continues, and the next set are brought in, and a little later the INS says we want to check you out. They come in and do a raid and send those folks home, and then the next set are brought in. All along the company is never penalized for having taken this step. At the same time, they are being rewarded by tax breaks for hiring illegal aliens. For hiring anybody they get the tax breaks but, in my view, the fact that they hire illegal aliens should not be rewarded. The fact that they are not punished is, I guess, federal policy. At this point, there is not much we can do as a state, but in terms of the state, rewarding the hiring of illegal aliens seems to me to be the wrong policy and something that the public, I think, would not tolerate were they aware of it. So I have proposed in the past and propose now that we do something about that. And what this amendment would offer is that the employee that would