

April 11, 1979

LB 581

to make sure that they are not illegal aliens. Probably this will cut down on some of the employment of illegal aliens that has been a problem. We had a study on this a couple years ago. The Business and Labor Committee held hearings in Grand Island and Omaha and at that time we decided not to sponsor any legislation. We had a bill before us this year...

SENATOR KEYES: That is why I just thought I would ask you if the companies pay and withhold for the illegal aliens and withhold for everybody that is working for them. Don't they?

SENATOR MARESH: That should be right.

SENATOR KEYES: All right, now if they don't have to pay out for everybody that is working for them, would this lead a company to hire illegal aliens so that they could get their unemployment compensation requirements down?

SENATOR MARESH: Well, I suppose that could be the case but...

SENATOR KEYES: I know there is a company in Omaha that when the immigration authorities walk in, I have heard that the people hide on the rails and hide in the corners. They run out the building and the thing practically shuts down so to my estimation if we fix it so that they don't have to pay any unemployment compensation, which I do want them to do but I think there would be other means of doing it because it would encourage the company to hire people that he knows right from the start that he is not going to have to pay unemployment compensation to them. They are not going to be eligible for it and so it would keep his rate down. I hope you have got this covered in it.

SENATOR MARESH: Well, that has been the concern of Senator Brennan. He had this study resolution a couple of years ago that there are illegal aliens hired in the packing houses and probably are authorities that are not doing a good enough job to screen these people to look for them. I don't know, but at that time we decided not to sponsor any legislation. This year we had a bill and it was...had a lot of opposition from the Mexican-Americans who...

SENATOR KEYES: I want to talk to Senator Brennan, ask him a question. You can talk on your next ten minutes then.