

I'd like to talk about three of our adjoining states, Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota, all three of which have state licenses for electricians. Take, for example, the case in Valentine, Nebraska, to get it real close to home for Senator Lamb, where building a motel the South Dakota people...electricians can come over and bid and wire that motel, take that business away from Nebraska electricians. But let a Nebraska electrician go over there and he can't do a darn thing until he goes and gets a South Dakota license. So, consequently, we are letting the Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota electricians come over here, take business away from Nebraska electricians but, when it comes to the reverse, our guys cannot go over there and get any business to keep them going, unless they first go over and get a license. Now just so that everybody is abreast of the situation, I happen to be an electrical contractor. But in my particular area, the Omaha area, it is not...I'm not affected by this one way or the other as far as what I can do because Iowa does not have a state license, and the City of Council Bluffs recognizes the Omaha license. So, consequently, as far as an electrical contracting license is concerned we are not affected. But I'll tell you Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota, all three of those states do have state licenses which in essence say to our guys, our Nebraska electricians, you can't come over here, but boy we can come over there and take business away from you. I would suggest that we not kill this bill but that we pass it. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, then Senator Lamb.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I come from a rural community. We have no towns, in my opinion, bigger than 5,000. I think some of them that were getting close are probably below that now. I've been involved in this electrical issue basically since 1971. I used to fight the state licensing. To be very honest with you it was always pretty well pushed and organized by the labor unions of the state. That is nothing against the labor unions. I'm just identifying the origins of the pressure for the bill. And they do have the licensing system now in effect for those above 5,000, and I'm not sure how well it works. But before I impose it on the rural areas, where things seem to be working pretty good, I would like to just sit for 4, or 5, or 10 years and compare the two systems, see if our system, without the heavy government intervention, works as