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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I did not support (laugh)...you can consider me a liberal, I did not support Senator Landis, the amendment he's bringing right now in the Revenue Committee. I thought it went too far. But I think what the underlying amendment, what we're asking the business community to do, is to let us know on this side, different than the executive side, to know what is going on. We can put...a person from our Fiscal Office could be part of the Revenue Department and that could work out. That's done...been done in the past with other things. The information that we have as far as our side of the street, different from the executive, is put out here by Senator Landis. We have given over the time \$1 billion tax credit, and we have got...collected \$300 million in taxes. And if you continue with business like that, giving away \$1 billion and getting \$300 million, you're going to go broke real fast. And that's, I think, is what we're asking with the thing that came out of the committee, and Senator Redfield addressed it, Senator Raikes, come out of the Revenue Committee was that this is information that we need on this side of the track rather than with...so we can analyze it. And the thing that Senator Thompson talked about is that, yes, it does...I have the bill in the Revenue Committee, it's still sitting there...is that it does hit the cities with sales tax. Up in Senator Louden's district one...a few years ago, Alliance got this big bill from sales tax from Burlington Northern. I don't think even the work was done even there, but they got the...the city of Alliance got the big bill. They had...and they couldn't budget for it, so it was some type of budgeting we don't know. They, the business, decides when they want to take the sales tax, want to take all this credit. It's their decision and we don't control it, because it works into their bookkeeping. So I think what we have proposed in the...come out of the Revenue Committee, this particular part, I think is a good amendment, so we, on this side, so we have better information that is given to us. And I think we here listen to Senator Brashear talk that everything has happened because of LB 775. Has Warren Buffett gotten (laugh) part of LB 775? He's been pretty successful in this state, Senator Brashear. And this...it all is not based on that, and would some of these companies have done it without LB 775? They probably would. I'll give my time back.