

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 22, 2003      LB 759

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...ordinarily I wouldn't vote for because of my personal predilections. Now I can vote against an increase in the cigarette tax, and this is an increase because the agreement was that it would go back to a certain level, but that part of the agreement was stricken. So I don't have to support this part of the amendment. I won't try to stop the bill. I'm going to let you all play like the fish. I'm going to let you swim way on out there and make you think you got away because you moved your bill to Select File, but time is on my side and the side of the angels, and the angels believe in truth and sticking by your word and meaning what you say, and I'm convinced that I probably ought to be in league with the angels if I'm going to be in league with anybody. But that remains to be seen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Jones. Not on the amendment. Senator Dwite Pedersen. Not on the amendment. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was a bill that passed a couple years ago and I didn't support it at the time because the money would have gone to the Building Maintenance Fund and there was two cents that was set to lapse on the Omaha Civic Auditorium project and it got redirected to these two purposes, and this will be one cent of it and then I'm assuming we'll hear the other one eventually too. But one of the reasons, I had my light on early on in this debate because I did want to make a couple comments about the budget in general, but the MIRF thing came up so I ended up using my time on that. But I never did support this cent coming on and I know it was a bone of contention in the Legislature at the time because our buildings in the state are in such need of repair, of fire/life safety issues, deterioration issues, and we aren't even close to being able to get to that. So I don't know what I'll do on Senator Chambers' amendment, but I know the point he's trying to make. In the time I'd like to use, the point I would like to make to you is that, as we begin this discussion of what are the needs of the state, what the budget is coming out of the Appropriations Committee is, the one thing that won't happen is that if you pass...don't pass the budget that we present you still can't go back to the Governor's original budget, because