

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 22, 2003

LB 759

Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, there's one good thing about Senator Quandahl's amendment. If it's adopted, mine goes away. Visiting with your constituents I'm sure you've all heard this: you don't have the money; you have to cut. All right, this is one way we would be cutting. We're cutting out programs here, not one of these programs that are being funded aren't worthwhile, not a one of them. Are they as worthwhile as your grandmother in a nursing home? Are they as worthwhile as education at the University of Nebraska? Are they as worthwhile as the K-12 education where you're laying...going to have to start laying off teachers? Are those worthwhile? You bet they are. But those constituents that tell you, you must cut, don't know the ramifications that will come from cuts, and that is what we're going to be seeing here. Every one, every one has merit. The two projects that were funded a couple years ago with the cigarette tax money, very worthwhile. Those are projects that need to be done. But why? Why did we have to rob from those cigarette tax dollars that were going to special places to fund something else? If you have...if you're in a business and you have a certain portion of that business that you think you can possibly get along without, what do you do? You eliminate that. And as time goes along, you see that you're having a problem, your ice cream isn't being froze quite as hard as it should be or your produce is drying up, you needed that new compressor but you didn't buy it because you were trying to save dollars. Maybe we should go back and readdress these. Let them speak on their merits and see which one of those projects are essential. They're all essential. Yes, they are. But we don't have the bucks. We are going to pass up an opportunity, I imagine we will, where we could raise a lot of revenue. This state could be looking at 100 to 200 million dollars in revenue, but we just...we need about five more people to agree with us. There's a source of revenue for you. Would you trade that for the Department of Health and Human Services cut? Would you trade that for information technology? Would you change...trade that for capital construction funds? Think about it a little bit--five more people. You know, we've got the problems now. We're going to have more problems with Senator Quandahl's amendment. But I