

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

April 23, 2003 LB 759

negotiating process you guard your position carefully. You keep your options open. You expect everyone to come to the table and deal with you hands up on top of the table telling you what they have in mind, and you responding in terms of what you have in mind. Everybody has a role to play in the process but everybody gets to play their role unless anybody lays down and dies or clears the path or gets out of the way. I wasn't particularly enthused to have this amendment filed yesterday, and I'm a lot less enthused today, and I'm asking you to defeat it. I'm asking you to defeat it for a number of reasons. We did the 30 cents on smokers and we have to sort this whole thing out.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: It's easy to target smokers but we don't have to target them on General File. This option is always available to us because this bill has the 30 cent permanent increase in it. I ask you to defeat this amendment, stand strong, move this bill forward because nobody is committed to anything until they cast a final vote for it, but this is how we maintain our full ambit of authority and power to fully participate in this process and be dealt with straight up in arriving at a conclusion that we are a part of rather than a pawn in the process of. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Thank you, Senator Hartnett. The Chair now recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, a couple of points I'd like to make that reiterate some points that my colleagues have made. There are significant border bleeding problems now. This will make that difficult. Nebraska is in a strange place. So much of our population is nestled at the edge of our state, right next to another state. Of all the concerns we need to take into account in our tax policy, I've got to say that one of the most significant is what's Iowa's tax policy. And the reason for that is because so much of our population lives within driving distance of Iowa. If you make tax policy decisions which motivates somebody to drive 50 miles to beat the tax, about 50 percent of our population is in a position to do that between Omaha and Lincoln. So we need to be