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April 23, 2003 LB 759

Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I also rise to support this part of the Brashear package, or the Revenue package part of LB 759. We're really not raising income tax. We're simply restoring what we had before in 1997. We're simply restoring half of it. I, if...thinking very strongly, had a bill to raise it to back where it was before 1998. At that time, in our history of this state, we had too much money. We were collecting too much money. So we put in the...we took away the income tax proposal. To me, the income tax is the most fair tax. It's fair tax because it's the one I pay the most of. (Laugh) I don't...not the cigarette tax, don't pay the cigarette tax. Don't pay much of the sales tax, but pay more of the income tax. And so that is, to me, is the most fair...it's the most fair tax, that, because it hits the people that can afford it. So I think we're simply restoring a tax that maybe if we had good hindsight we wouldn't have cut it back in 1998, but at that time we were flooded with money. And so that I think this is a good move what the Revenue Committee advanced. So I would support it. I give the rest of my time back, Speaker Bromm.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I voted for the previous measure, the cigarette tax. As a member of the Health Committee, I'm becoming more and more convinced of the cost smoking poses to the state in health care down the line. I'm, as I mentioned yesterday, I'm not as comfortable with these other tax provisions in this bill. I still characterize my friend overall...myself overall as a friend of the people's plan. I have been every year I've been in here. Senator Brashear's overarching argument is move the whole package to Select File, and then let's see what happens with school aid and with the budget. Let's see where we are after everything has had a run through General File. And he may yet convince me to do that but I'm not there yet. I have an immediate narrowly focused reason. I think we need to shift a lot of the burden of