

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

April 23, 2003 LB 759

that was back in the late thirties. Everyone was poor. No one was wealthy. I didn't know what a bottle of Pepsi-Cola or Coca-Cola was till I was about eight years old. You know, and nothing probably would make me happier to see us put a tax on not only pop but bottled water. Our municipalities spend millions of dollars keeping our water clear. Some joker in Omaha bottles up some Omaha water and sends it out as spring...pure spring water and people gather that stuff up by the bushel basket full. Now that is...that just does not make sense to me. Millions of dollars spent purifying our water and it's not only youngsters. Older people run around with one of those bottles hanging out of their purse or in their pocket, can't wait until they can stop and take a sip out of that jug. And then what do they do? Throw the plastic bottle away, and then we have to clean that mess up too. You know, in spite of what Senator Chambers said, if we tax some food, why not it all? Why are we separating out certain items? I think it is idiotic to do that. In the first place, people don't realize that they aren't paying tax on food now. I see people come to...I don't do much of that checking because I'm not up with the newfangled machines and so on. I usually screw them up so the clerks say stay away from them, just keep him away from them. But I don't, you know, people will stop and they'll say, does that include tax? You have to stop and tell them, well, tax hasn't been on food for a good many years. And when we first started with sales tax, I was in business when the state of Nebraska decided to tax food. I thought it was a stupid idea at the time. But seeing what it did to lower some of the other taxes, for a short time anyway, it wasn't a bad idea. And when you get used to something, then you want to keep that up. And if we do end up, on my objections, to put tax on edible food, then I will offer an amendment to repeal that which was imposed last year to eliminate the sales tax collection fee to the first \$3,000 only. If we're going to have citizens and taxpayers in this state doing the collecting for the state of Nebraska so that we can decide to do what is...with the revenue generated, then I believe we should at least compensate those retailers, no matter who, whether they are in the furnish business, the counties who do the collecting on the automobiles...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.