

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

April 23, 2003      LB 759

turn it upside down, it makes a frown. If you feel pretty good, you turn it right side up and it smiles. But what it is is an air purifier. And all it is is a cardboard box, and people are so gullible, I will tell them when you put that box on your head, the air in that box is purified. And they will buy it. And then I'll even have designer boxes where I will do a little sketch on it, and you will see all these people, Senator Hudkins, walking around Lincoln and Omaha and all over the world, I hope, with a cardboard box on their heads. And I'll tell them, if you would have had these boxes, SARS never would have taken hold. And people will buy it. They bought rocks. They buy little pieces of wood in little perfume bottles that are said to be wood from the cross on which Jesus was crucified. People will dip some water out of the Missouri River and make it a little muddy and they sell it as water from the River Jordan. People buy anything. Why though will you buy water that you can get out of the tap without having to pay for it, and it's fresher? I call that government water. It's free, and when they test it, they find more bacteria in this water you all buy at the store, with all due respect, Senator Vickie...oh, she brings her water from home. That's all right then. She dips it right out of the creek in her backyard. That's as good as getting it out of the faucet. She is not paying for it like some of the city folk. But they found organisms that can make some people ill in this water, and just because it's on a shelf and they write fresh spring water, city people go there and buy it. All these retailers are doing is saying we're going to make a fool out of you again, and again, and again. And every time you bring that bottle of water up there and you've going to pay them some money, it's all they can do to keep from smiling. So what they've done is equipped every clerk with a thumb tack. And every time one of those people come to buy that bottle of water, that clerk presses that thumb tack into the palm of the hand to suppress laughter. Really. And wouldn't you? The first person who sold that water was doing it as a joke. He said nobody is going to give me money for water that they can get out of the tap. And he was just selling it in a cup, and somebody bought it. They paid him for it, and that's how it got started. Now if you want to tax bottled water,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.