

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

April 24, 2003      LB 759

that that proposition has 40 people who will support it all the way? Or were they all just cooperating to put together a package so that they can move it over to Select File and worry about it there? That's what I think happened. But we got a chance to test right now on a cloture vote. And you probably...let me not say "probably." I don't want to overstate what you may have going for yourselves. You have a good chance to get 33 votes today, because you want to get off this bill. You want to get it over to Select File. So you want to slap me. That's okay. This is a fight that won't end today. You'll slap me today, and I'll smart for a while. But I will also have a smile, because I know my day will come. And when you all get to Select File and you start arguing about these other issues, I'm going to jump into every one of those discussions, which is not what I did on General File. There was one day when I said next to nothing. There were amendments offered when I said nothing at all. I know how to extend the time we spend. And you cannot run and jump on a cloture vote then, because you're not going to have the bill in the condition you want it in. So the majority of you all can play hardball with me, and you feel that's not what it is because you got a lot of company along with you. But it seems like I'm the only one playing hardball, because I may stand virtually alone in my determination to knock this tax off. But I will do it. You know what Machiavelli said? That when you have people in a group, they are courageous and they will do things as any mob will do. But when you can make each person in that group feel that he or she is being looked at individually, or there is individual responsibility that's going to be wreaked, or taken from that person, put on that person, suddenly the mob begins to disintegrate, and there is no leader, because they are not all together on one accord. They were caught up in an ardor, and they were dragged along, and they were a part of that collective madness. But when you can sober them up, then it becomes a different matter. What the mob has to do to have any chance of success is to designate a leader and let that leader speak for you all, let that leader rally you, and let that leader hold all of you together on every issue. But it won't work, because I've got help out in the lobby, and there's somebody even on the other side of the Capitol building, the Governor, who doesn't like what you all are doing. I may be alone here, but I'm not alone ultimately, and you all know it.