

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

April 24, 2003 LB 759

It's not necessarily that one's right and one's wrong. But I'm taking a different approach. No more business as usual. I think we need to send...start sending signals right now that it's not just going to be tax here, tax there, tax everywhere to get out of this. If we make a good faith effort at budget reform, which to me means we've got to make a good faith effort at school finance reform, and still we don't quite get there, as I mentioned here, I'm willing to do something like extend the half-cent sales tax rate increase for a year. I'm open-minded on what we might do. But I want to work it the other way. I want to make a run at the budget, and especially at school finance, then see where we are. Then I might be convinced to vote for some of these other taxes that are in this package right now. Finally, let me come back to a point that I kind of was rushed in making at the end of my other comments. It's a purely practical political point. As I said, yesterday, I was the twenty-fifth and final vote in favor of sales tax expansion. And I'm concerned about that. Because as I said, I think it's the core principle of the bill. And it's...I want to see it succeed and move forward successfully. And as has been mentioned, it may not take 25 votes. It may take 30 votes to accomplish this. And so we're to the point now where I'd rather see it firmed up right now, and it appears that making the change that Senator Chambers proposes will do that for us. And so I say again that I'll be supporting the Chambers amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I rise in support of the Chambers amendment. I'm going to vote for the Chambers amendment. I am going to urge all of you not to vote for the Chambers amendment if you're voting because of Senator Chambers' threats of a special session, because we're going to have a special session, and you might as well plan for it now. There's a couple of things that haven't even been considered by Appropriations or anyone else, low-level radioactive waste being only the largest of them. In the meantime, I don't think that we take and put into the law a provision that everybody at least says, well, yeah, it will be difficult, but we can do it. If it's difficult, we won't do it. If we can't make up our minds