

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

May 6, 2003

LB 283

I'm a member of the Legislature, and I plot my course and lay out my strategy in disregard of what others are doing, in the same way that they lay out their strategy and plot their course in disregard of what I am doing. It becomes a battle of wills,...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and events will determine who is going to win. The body will collectively determine which approach is the more prudent. I believe what I'm suggesting is. So if the committee amendment is adopted and Senator Jensen's amendment is defeated, then I see no value in this bill and I'm going to do what I can to kill it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, I don't plan to support the committee amendment, AM0702, nor do I plan to support LB 283, nor do I plan to join the piling on of alcohol, as I've heard in the body this morning, and not just because it's alcohol. I think it happens to be the first thing on our agenda, so let's all speak about the ills and woes of alcohol. What I do want to talk about is raising taxes, and that's exactly what we're talking about here. We're raising taxes on products and services in Nebraska, and it's been my impression, as a new member of your body, it's been my impression that we've not talked much about spending cuts. I understand that this process works with Appropriations and Revenue in concert. I'm not sure exactly how that works yet and I'm hoping to find out here in the next week or two. I do understand in the world I come from you solve your spending problems first, and then you figure out where your revenue is coming from; you determine your spending needs, then you determine the revenue needs. And I'm just...I appreciate what Senator Jensen said, and he certainly is as interested in keeping our income tax and sales tax rates, property tax rates from growing to the highest point they can. I got to tell you, so are my constituents. I don't...I've never had a comment or a call from a constituent that said raise taxes on something; oh, let's raise taxes on alcohol because it's a bad thing; let's