

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

May 6, 2003

LB 283

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. This move is to reconsider the vote taken on committee amendment, AM0702, to LB 283. My original vote, I voted against this. I was voting against any tax increases, and my thought process at the time, you know, I've heard many of you talking about border bleed and how you really don't believe it makes a difference. I can tell you, as a businessman close to a border, it makes a huge difference. And I can also tell you I don't sell alcohol either. But border bleed makes a big difference when you go anywhere close to the borders of Nebraska, so I really do wish you would consider that. But in hindsight, realizing that we do need to raise revenue, we need to raise revenue, and with the spirit of compromise, that amendment was the best thing we had going, probably, and so I'm going to reconsider my vote. And with that, I'm going to close on this opening. I would just say that, in closing, I hope my wife, Deb, is watching this on television because she likes to hear me say I was wrong, and this will be the one time this year, Deb. Thank you. (Laughter)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. You've heard the opening on the motion to reconsider the vote taken. Open for discussion on that reconsideration motion. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Preister, Landis and Kruse. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, I just wanted to support the reconsideration motion. I think, like many people in here, I think much more should be done with regard to the alcohol tax, and hopefully can be done in the future, working with other states. But for the moment, I think we need to deal with the matter on a different basis, and that basis is the raising of what revenue we can, logically and fairly and practically, to contribute to the budget problem of this immediate biennium. And so I hope folks will support the reconsideration motion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, LB 283