

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

May 6, 2003

LB 379

a wise thing to do at this point in time. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Brown, you're next.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President and members, what do Texas, Florida, Wyoming, and South Dakota have in common? No income tax and a lot of ex-Nebraskans, including people that I know. I have acquaintances who have a home in Texas, maintain their residency, and a home in Nebraska; a number of people who have retired to Florida; and several people whose jobs were transferred from South Dakota because the company that they worked for transferred into South Dakota. And I think that if we are seriously looking at turning back the clock, if our tax policy was not about making good decisions that have to do with whether it encourages economic development in the state and keeps people here, but rather about the availability of funds, and we're just looking at our bottom line as what we're going for, are we ready to turn back the clock to...on our state aid level to 1996 or '97? We would probably be not even needing to worry about the \$360 million because I think it would be more than offset by the difference. I don't think that we're ready to go back on that any more than I think we should be ready to go back on the policy decisions that we made about what level of income taxation is going to...where we start "de-incentivizing" people living here, people especially of high income staying here, and businesses staying here. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Chambers, you are the next speaker.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the Legislature, I was sighting in on Senator Brown, because I knew she would precede me. I know my colleagues from the rural areas are going to vote for this bill, I know that, because they don't like to pay taxes and they're going to vote for this, and I don't think I have to go through a long tirade or anything to get them. And I see the "Silver Fox" striding down the aisle. I listened to Senator Jensen saying how all of his elderly friends who've got money are going to go flocking down to Florida and they'll get there before those cranes, those that