

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

May 8, 2003

LB 759

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Chambers. And this will be your third time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, we play footsie around here too much, but I don't. Senator Landis said I'm wrong on every count. I don't care what Senator Landis says about that, because he's just giving his opinion. But he made a deal with the devil. He made a deal with the liquor industry. It was imposed on the Revenue Committee. And he thinks I've got to be bound by a deal that he made. And he's going to pontificate and say how he doesn't get in the debates except one every so many speeches. He doesn't have to ever get into the debate as far as I'm concerned. And here's what I'll say to Senator Landis and the liquor people that he made the deal with, the reprehensible, inexcusable, unjustifiable, deal with. He cannot deliver the cigarette tax, but I can take the cigarette tax. Now, let him top that. He's got his chairmanship this time. But if we're going to play hardball, we're going to play it from now on. And that little cutesy stuff, as I mentioned it, means nothing to me. Walt is calling the shots on the Legislature. The deal was struck between Senator Landis and the liquor lobby, not with me. I'm not bound by anything Senator Landis agrees to with anybody else. And he said the liquor industry told him that if he did this that it's okay with them. And Senator Landis said there would be no fight on the floor. Well, what is it that stung him so much, if not a fight. He reckoned without me. He thinks I'm going to roll over because Senator Landis said, this is the way it should be because Walt said this is the way it should be. Senator Landis, in trying to uphold the repair costs on automobiles, said all these other states are doing it. Is he a legislator for these other states, because he may do some part-time work in those states? I'm a legislator in Nebraska. I don't care 49 other states are doing something. If to do that in Nebraska does not address the problems here, I'm not going to do it. And he should know better than to float an argument like that and think it's going to take with me. It will take with the rest of the senators. That's why he floats it. Nobody thinks. Nobody analyzes. But I do. So he says, well, the other states don't tax liquor this much, which means that the