

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

of the reduction that's being offered here comes out of higher education. If you cut, for example...as I understand it, this would amount to about an additional \$3 million or so for UNL. I am told that you take...for example, the law school at UNL is about \$5 million. So either you're going to...and these are decisions we have to look at. But you know, do you want to eliminate the law school at UNL? I think we're getting close to those kinds of decisions with these sorts of cuts. The other thing that I do, back, again, appreciate, is that we're now, I think, with this proposed amendment, beginning to look at the entire proposal. Now, what I see is \$80 million of reductions from the...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...committee. So as I interpret that, that would take the gap, if you will, from about \$350 or \$355, down to about \$275. And I see over on the other side, revenues amounting to about \$20 million additional revenues, so that, as I understand it then, we'd have about \$20 million left. And then for that \$20 million, you've got...instead of a 25 percent increase in alcohol taxes, we go to a 50 percent increase. That gets about half of it. Or eliminating cigarette earmarks. Now, again, I'm not sure I'm interpreting this correctly, but that would basically mean ending those programs that are supported by those earmarks, and then putting the money in the General Fund, which may be something we need to look at, but certainly we need to look at it in considerable detail before we do something like that.

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I'm one of those people that like to have a number of options out on the table before me before I come up with a decision on what I think is best. And I...the first time that I spoke, I talked about our constitutional duty to pass a balanced budget.