

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

May 27, 2003

LB 407

hemlock. And I'm going to have to vote for the Fletcher's Castoria, because I cannot vote to kill the state of Nebraska and dismantle our programs. So I'm very sorry, my first year in office. I have the utmost respect for our Governor, . . . he knows that, his wife knows that . . . the utmost of respect for his position. However, I have weighed all the pluses, minuses, listened, sifted, and studied. I even laid awake last night. After I heard the Governor, I think you might have read that Senator Hudkins and myself we kind of waiting to have a bone thrown to us to see, well, maybe there will be something for us there to consider in the line items, because we really, in our heart, did not want to override. However, with a total nothing line item there to be cut, I laid awake last night, just knowing what I was going to have to do today.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR COMBS: So I am . . . I cannot say that I apologize for my vote. I am sorry that I have to cast it. But I am casting it with the hope that, like the discussion went this morning, we can revisit our fiscal status when the skies get a little bit rosier, when we . . . hopefully, with what President Bush has proposed, it will have a positive outcome on all states' economies. We will start turning around things. It will start looking better. And then that can float down to the state level, and we will have better times ahead. So we are walking through the valley of the shadow of death right now. But we got to look for the bright spot at the end. Hang in there with us. We do care about Nebraska, and we are trying to do what's right for most of the citizens in the state. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Combs. Senator Johnson, followed by Senator Mines and others.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Cudaback and members of this body, we had a wonderful businessman in Kearney a few years back . . . died a few years back. On his business, he had a sign that said this: the cost is forgotten sooner than is the poor quality of the product. And I think that's where we're at here today, is that we need to preserve the quality of the product. It is going to be a little expensive to do. But contrary to the conclusion