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LB 285A

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. You've heard the opening on the motion to return LB 285A to Select File for a specific amendment. Open for discussion on that, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. And for the fourth time I rise in opposition of the amendment. And I just kind of wanted to point out a few things, kind of give you a history of where we're at, and just kind of remind everybody in case we've forgotten, but a few weeks ago Senator Raikes had an amendment that took away the funding for tax-free (sic) Nebraska and that passed. And then there was another amendment that was run, or was an additional cigarette tax that tried to reinstate the 3-cent cigarette tax, and that failed. And then Senator Thompson tried another 3-cent cigarette tax and that failed. And then now Senator Landis has reduced the amount to I think it's \$400,000 a year, but he says that it's money we created the other day. Well, we heard from the administration. We heard Senator or Governor Johanns' veto letter saying how the budget, as I understand it, is fairly heavy in the first year and there is a concern, and I think it's a legitimate concern, that there is a cash flow problem. Now does \$400,000 mean that much? I don't know. But my point is, is that I think we've done every thing that we need to do. It's not really creating money. It's still money there. Just because there is some extra money there between, you know, what we raised in revenue and versus what we spent, that doesn't mean we have to spend it. There's nothing wrong with leaving it there. I guess I'm kind of frustrated with the whole process, the whole year, not just with this fund. But, I mean, think back of what we've done. How many real changes have we made, you know, versus how many we've tried to do? I mean every thing that... a lot of things that we tried to touch, we couldn't, you know? But we talked earlier with Senator Brashear's amendment about the trust fund, the Highway Trust Fund. There was, you know, I think a pretty good argument made, you know, roads versus education; the Environmental Trust, things of that nature. We tried to eliminate programs, couldn't do it. The lobbyists would all come in. How many of you had this happen where they'd come into your committee and say, well, we know you got to cut, we know you are in significant problems,