

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

February 11, 2004 LB 279

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are you going to offer such a motion?

SENATOR JONES: I can offer it, or I'll talk to Senator Wehrbein and see if we can't offer one, or something.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, I'm going to continue to talk while you commune with Senator Wehrbein and see what you can work out...

SENATOR JONES: Okay. Thank you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...because...thank you. Members of the Legislature, this issue should be discussed thoroughly at this point, because as the session progresses we are going to be faced with some much more difficult problems relative to revenue and there might be a need on the part of the Legislature to try to raise revenue in a way that is not customary. And there may need to be support spread across the board to obtain that particular procedure's success. I haven't decided, because I don't have enough facts, what my view will be when the Appropriations Committee brings a bill out here that lays out some budgetary steps, some budgetary conclusions, and some budgetary amounts. I don't know what they are going to try to cut, I don't know what they're going to try to preserve, but I have established a priority in my mind and right now that's the state Supreme Court. I have had a lot of criticism, sometimes "blanketly" so, of the judiciary itself because of a failure to police itself as it should, in my opinion. And my opinion as to how they should police themselves is not based on something I pulled out of the air or that I manufactured in my mind. It is based on having read thoroughly, from beginning to end several times, the Code of Judicial Conduct, the code adopted by the Nebraska Supreme Court that lays out the standards that must be met by judges. When judges fail to meet those standards, they fail to function as a judge should and there has to be a calling to account of judges...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...who misbehave. That task, unfortunately, because it is so time-consuming, that's why I say "unfortunately," has fallen to me. I have procured the removal