

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2004 LB 1093

been asked to cut back on waste, fraud, and abuse. Well, as far as I know, there wasn't a whole lot of fraud in the first place. But when salaries go up, the price of floor wax increases, utilities go up, in schools the books go up and the bus tires go up, paint increases and, oh, yes, let's not forget health insurance, they all go up, how can governmental entitites cut any more? The governmental entitites that did major reductions in their askings when they were asked to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR HUDKINS: ...are really having tough times now. I know the state is in terrible shape, but let's not balance the budget on the backs of the property taxpayers. Fixed income people are paying more and more on their houses. Farmers are paying more and more taxes on their ground, a tax that must be paid whether you have a crop or not. I could support an increase in income tax. I don't mind paying income taxes because that means that I made money. And don't tell farmers that if they don't like paying property tax to sell their ground. That dirt is our livelihood and besides that, the capital gains would just kill us. Education and our students are important, but they're expensive. Let's find a way to fund schools on a more equitable basis rather than depending so heavily on property taxes. The chart that Senator Beutler passed out I think tells it all, but it also is averages. And if you'd look at personal income and the agricultural sector in Nebraska, because of the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR HUDKINS: ...drought for four years, our income definitely went down. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Hartnett, followed by Senators Mines, Chambers, Tyson and Senator Don Pederson and others. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, a brave new world we're in. Which taxes shall we raise--income, property, sales tax? Before us we have a property tax raise that we went tentatively last year to \$1.05 and I can support