

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

March 24, 2004 LR 209

need. We're in the midst of a crisis where we're taking money from these funds right now. And what is being proposed? That the constitution be amended to make it impossible for the state to do what it has to do now. If the state were flush, flush and rolling in dough, awash in cash, you might say an argument could be made to do this because if you project down the line it doesn't look like anytime in the foreseeable future that the state is going to face an economic crisis. The income tax that was coming into the state was reduced when the federal government reduced taxes at that level. This state does not even control completely how much money will be derived through its income tax, because it's hooked on to something done by an entity, the federal government, over which the state has no control and over which it exerts no influence even. So while we're in the midst of a crisis, we have our friends from Lincoln saying, but the interests of Lincoln are more important than the concerns of the state. Give to Lincoln, but do it in the way being asked for by "King Bourne I" of Lincoln. Make the entity, whether it's a municipality or a county, if you adopt this amendment, have to put up a 10 percent match before they can get into this money, and if they decide not to put up the match they don't get the money. And if they need the money to operate but they don't have it, they cannot operate. That's something we need to consider, but we're not considering it. Senator Landis and his cohorts from Lincoln will accept anything that will get enough votes to put this before the public. They want Lincoln to get that 10 percent of the lottery money. And if the state needs it, the state, carrying a tin cup, saying please give me some money, give me some money, we should not give away this source of revenue that may be needed. I think it was an error for the state to give away part of its tax base when it allowed the cities to impose a sales tax. I hope you'll look at this amendment and consider it in the spirit that I'm offering it. It's not a stratagem. It's not designed to hurt anything. And in fact, I hope you reject it. Yeah, you ought to reject this amendment because I do have a plan that I haven't told you about. Now you don't know for sure what to do, do you? Reject it. Senator Bourne had had a heap of minds working on his amendment. They considered this. They didn't think it was necessary. Then here I come, with my troublemaking self, upsetting the applecart and say I'm smarter than all these