

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

March 31, 2004 LB 1090

troublesome with the contractors this year. We did not get very far with Senator Stuthman's proposal that would have tried to correct that. And we are in a revenue shortfall now. However, sales taxes are...they can be regressive, I agree, Senator Hartnett, but everyone pays, even the people that use...

SENATOR KREMER: One minute.

SENATOR COMBS: ...a lot of government services will pay. You do not have to own a home, you do not have to own property, you do not have to have an income to still, like Governor Johanns said two years ago, get an oar in the water and row with the rest of us. And sales tax allows everybody to get on board and be a good Nebraskan and help bail us out of this situation. So I'm not going to stick my head in the sand and be a CAVE person and, you know, sorry, not me, this isn't the way we should do it. However, I would offer to Senator Chambers, and I did offer to Senator Brashear, I would be amenable to consider income tax as long as we considered sales on the same table. I think we need a comprehensive approach. I'd like to see a coalition or I'm willing to stay till midnight if we need to, and work and talk with anybody and listen. And I'll have to put my light on again because I did want to weigh in on the highway tax fund. I am not in favor of borrowing money.

SENATOR KREMER: Time.

SENATOR COMBS: Okay. Thanks.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Combs. The lights that are on now are Senators Schimek, Cudaback, Kruse and eight others. Senator Schimek, you are recognized to speak.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. And Senator Combs, I'll try to give you some of my time because I don't plan to use my entire five minutes. I've already weighed in on these issues briefly this morning, and I have said that I would support the income tax and not any of the others. But, you know, this reminds me a little bit of the gambling issue. There's a majority of people in here, I believe, that feel that we need to do something but finding agreement on what