

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

March 31, 2004 LB 1090

that something is is the sticking point. And I hope it doesn't take us as long to decide about this issue as it has to decide about the gambling issue. But I originally turned my light on just to make one little brief comment regarding the committees that we have and the way we work. And I notice there is an interim study resolution that was introduced by Senator Erdman yesterday, or Thursday maybe it was, and I would like to suggest that we at least look at the way other states intertwine the policy decisions with the appropriations decisions. And maybe that wouldn't work in Nebraska, maybe we have too small of a Legislature and there aren't enough members to go around. But in some other states, for instance, they have a subcommittee on healthcare and health issue appropriations. We don't generally get that kind of a mixed discussion, and maybe we could figure out a way to have that happen more often. The other thing I would like to say before I give my time to Senator Combs is that I've gotten several e-mails this afternoon and I find that my constituents don't have any agreement on this either, (laugh) giving me no guidance whatsoever. There are a couple of things that rankle a bit and one of them says: Increasing taxes only reinforces the belief that leaders can use others' hard-earned money to benefit what they want and themselves. And I'm wondering, how does this benefit us to increase taxes? First of all, you're taking a political hit when you do. And the other thing is, we pay taxes just like everybody else. And the other this is, our salaries are still the same as they were in 1989, so how this benefits us, I don't know, and I just had to say that for the record. So with that, Mr. President, I would like to give the rest of my time to Senator Combs.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Combs, you have 2 minutes and 14 seconds.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you so much. I appreciate it, Senator Schimek. I, too, have gotten some, not...my e-mails were not as schizophrenic as hers were. Mine are simply: Don't raise my taxes. So...but back on the issue of Senator Brashear's idea, we do...I know that we have this facing us, the possibility of the judgment from the nuclear waste compact. I'm not totally convinced, and you know, call me a blind optimist, but I would like to see where we are come this fall. I'd like to see what