

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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you...there's a handout about how your proposal would change our income tax rate. My question to you is, how would this change you have proposed affect our ranking?

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Hartnett, will you yield to a question?

SENATOR HARTNETT: I do not know, Senator Raikes. I don't know. Not significantly, Senator Chambers said to say, to give a response, not significantly.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. So I notice that you've kept the top rate the same, so clearly we wouldn't advance on any other state in at least that bracket. Let me ask you this. I think these rankings that you've got are 2000 and 2001. Do you know if surrounding states, any of these states, have raised income tax in the last, what are we now, the last two or three years and/or if any of them are contemplating that now?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Raikes, this is the information, I think the latest information that we could get from the committee clerk of the Revenue Committee, so that's the latest he has is the figures that I...with the sheets I passed out to you, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. I'll keep trying here. Now we often hear that, particularly from the business committee I think and others as well, that Nebraska is noncompetitive in terms of income tax rates, particularly higher brackets. What I see here, if this is current at all, would not support that in the...well, let me suggest to you that I don't see that it supports that, and let you respond. For example, we have Nebraska 28th Nebraska 31st; and then specifically the city of Omaha, we do...for \$50,000, we're at 30th; for \$150,000, it looks like we're tied for 22nd,...

SENATOR KREMER: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...which is slightly above average but not...so your response to that.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Raikes, I think it would have a