

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

March 31, 2004 LB 1090

and that is significant. So the proposal that was before us, and still is, actually, under the bracket motion, is Senator Hartnett's, which is an income tax increase. And I would question whether in fact we will see any increase in our revenue if in fact we drive out more of the people who pay such a large proportion of our income taxes in the state. When we look at the state, total spending, in 1999 it was \$5.4 billion; in 2003 it was \$6.8 billion. That's an increase of over 25 percent, almost 26 percent in four years. And yet we are seeing that for most Nebraskans, there is not an increase in income. So when we look at it and we say, well, let the people who have the money pay, we're asking the people who have the same amount of money they had last year, or maybe less money than they had last year, pay more in taxes out of what they have. Let me say that again. We're asking people to pay more in taxes when they have less money than they had last year. And that is reflected in our total income tax receipts, which tell you that our AGI for all of our citizens as a whole has gone down. So I think we have to be very careful here when we're talking about solving this from the revenue side, because we're asking people who don't have more to continually pay more. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues. If I could have Senator Wehrbein yield, please?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Wehrbein, would you...

SENATOR MINES: Just to a few questions.

SPEAKER BROMM: ...yield, please?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR MINES: Senator Wehrbein, your proposal was to take the...our property tax from...school property tax from \$1.05 to \$1.10. And can you tell me how much revenue that would have shifted from state aid back to...?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: \$52 million each year; \$104 million. It's