

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

April 2, 2004 LB 1090 :

everybody on the floor is against it and people off the floor are against it, I am not going to be deterred. My job as perceive it for myself is to go forward with those things I believe in, because I don't need people's permission, I don't need their approval. I'm going to do and say what I think is appropriate. And if there are 48 votes against it, so what? Winning and losing are words attached at random to various activities. There are numerous ways to define winning and losing. If you allow other people to characterize the nature of the outcome of the effort you put forward, then those people control you. They define your life, they define your existence, they define the worth of the effort that you put forth and even the nature of that effort. Not so with me. If I thought there ought to be a combination sales and income tax, I would not bemoan the fact that nobody has offered that. I would not bemoan the fact that it may have been offered and withdrawn. If I believed that is what ought to be before us, it would be before us, because I would offer it. Right now people may not want to debate this bill. They might want to move on to other things. Is that going to govern how I behave this morning on the floor of the Legislature? Not one person on this floor voted for me to be here. I'm not representing the people on this floor. I don't even, on every occasion, reflect the attitude of the people in my district, because in my view they are wrong. They are wrong when it comes to gay and lesbian marriage. They are wrong if they believe that people because of their sexual orientation should be discriminated against. And I let them know it. And I've invited them to run somebody against me, and told them how to go about doing it and how they can even get some matching money from the state. I don't have to be in this office. But while I'm here, I'm going to be my own man, and I'm going to do and say what I think ought to be done and said. I spoke strongly for an income tax increase. Why did we not vote on it? Not because of me. Why didn't we vote on the electrical surcharge? Not because of me. Why have there not been votes on various propositions? Because the ones who offered them pulled them back. Now if my opposition--I'm going to be arrogant and egotistical in this statement--if my opposition is so awesome and overwhelming that all I need do is express it and my opponent capitulates, do you think that I'm not going to do that? Do you think I would like to engage in a