

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

April 5, 2004

LB 1065, 1089

have the necessity to find more money. And what will happen? Maybe something that took place similar to the time we were on LB 1089, the budget bill, and some were looking for some money to pay off the \$151 million low-level nuclear waste judgment. Now should that judgment stand, interest is going to increase. Senator Bromm had offered us an amendment that would change the rate of interest, but I believe he withdrew it. So that was not done. Nothing has been done to mitigate that. LB 1065, with the adoption of the committee amendment--I don't know what the green copy itself says about this particular aspect of the problem--but the committee amendment attempts to shut some doors that will hold down the amount of liability that could face the state. Well, Senator Schrock is not concerned about that. Senator Baker is not concerned. And if they're not concerned, you know that I'm not. But do they think they're going to get an increase in the sales tax to pay off those ethanol bills? Are they going to get an increase in the income tax to pay off those ethanol bills? Does he think he can get an increase in that levy, in other words, increase property taxes and find some way to funnel that local money into these ethanol plants in their area? If their area is where the plants are located, if their area is where corn is being sold for use by the plants, the people in their area are gaining. They have more money. They can pay more property tax. And they ought to be willing to offset some of those expenses that those plants are generating. But since that is not likely to happen, we will have a group of rural senators with a pitiful mouth...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...coming to the Legislature saying, bail us out, we need some money. And I'll be standing here then, just like I am now, saying, no, no, no. The fortunate thing for the Legislature is that our proceedings are carried from gavel to gavel. And if people are watching, they will see that the Chamber is emptying, just like Congress. But what they will not see is that the senators are being fed by some lobbyist, probably. That's why they're not at their seats. Instead of doing the business of the state, they're someplace feeding their faces. "Captain Lunch-hunter" in spades, a collective "Captain Lunch-hunter." Our work is not done here, brothers and sisters.