

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

March 22, 2005 LB 739

that they want, and they can give the impression that the Revenue Committee has done its job. A job is being done on the public. I emphasize again, the population base of Nebraska is not growing, to any appreciable extent. Yet, those who will pay taxes are going to have to pay more, because at the same time that the population is not growing, the Legislature is giving away more of the state's tax base to business. You're saying, they don't have to pay taxes. Well, who's going to pay the tax bill? I have not been here at any time during my 35 years when the budget of the state was reduced. Maybe the amount of increase would be lessened. It would not be as large an increase. What Legislature is going to start actually cutting the budget below what it was the previous year, to make up for the amount in taxes that business is not required to pay? Somewhere, the difference has to be made up. It's like a teeter-totter. If they're balanced...if it's balanced on the fulcrum, the same amount of weight on each end, the teeter-totter will be level. When one end is made heavier, it will go down and the other end will proportionately go up. As business gets more and more benefits and pays less and less, the weight borne by the public becomes more and more and more, and the teeter-totter is unbalanced, which it is already. Business has told you they not...they are not going to tell you how much money they are realizing from the giveaways already. And people are running around here feeling that the big thing in this session will be the Cabela bill and giving business what they want. And they may get it, because they can probably get you to vote cloture, as they have always been able to do. But like hell--or hades, for those who are delicate of ear--hell is never full, is never full. A gigantic, yawning maw, which is never full. That's business. There was a movie with Kirk Douglas' son--I forget his first name; Walter, or something like that--who played a Wall Street trader, or broker, or something. His name was Gekko. And he gave a speech, and the words that were most memorable and were played ad nauseam: Greed is good. That was his mantra, that was his credo, that's what he directed his professional life in accord with. And that is the model of business: Greed is good. The Legislature is weak. The Legislature is supine. The Legislature is spineless. All the businesspeople have to do is run a bus outside the building on what I call the Abraham Lincoln side, the west side of the