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

May 5, 2005

LB 425

Legislature, I don't know if I can...I wouldn't even try to add to what Senator Erdman eloquently...just eloquently spoke of, but I wanted to point out that, and I have pointed out to a couple of folks already, that I probably shouldn't even be spewing into this microphone right now because this is a subject that could get me in trouble. But sometimes trouble just follows a man. What I would say about this amendment, I wrote up a few minutes ago...I didn't vote on Senator Byars' last amendment. And Senator Byars made a really good argument, and I thought, I'm not going to vote on this because I really don't know what to do. But now, I say let's have some fun, because I think I know what to do. I may vote for this amendment but, guess what, I also may take this reconsideration motion and go up there, put it in, and say, what's more important? What's more important than what Senator Byars was just talking about? Let's forget about, just for a second, the fact that a lot of folks might not think Senator Byars had the right approach. don't really know. Let's forget about that a second. Let's say it was the right approach. What could be considered more important than what he was promoting? The things that we're talking about today, I didn't hear, maybe with a couple of exceptions, a whole lot that was more important than what Senator Byars was promoting 20 minutes ago. Now what we've got in front of us... I love the city of Omaha. I've been there most of my life. Now what we've got in front of us, and I've told people I'd do the soft sell for an amendment like this, but here's what bothers me, and here's why I might not vote on this and reconsider everything that I do from here on in, because I have a problem with what happened a couple of years ago. Legislature was excoriated in the public, and guess what? I didn't excoriate anybody, I didn't feel it was my position, for raising taxes to the degree that we did. I was here. I'm part of the body. I accepted that. I raised my hand and that, and people blamed me. I said, fine, do it, I'm part of that body. I could have tried to prevent it. I didn't. I could have filibustered it, I didn't. I let it go. We're a body in here that made a decision. But now we've got city elections in Omaha, we just had some in Lincoln coming up, with people pounding their chests about how they haven't had to raise taxes. Ha, ha, ha. That's funny. Guest what? They have taxing authority in these communities, they can do it, but they let you