

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

March 22, 2006      LB 968

whether or not we would...could leave that lie there. I could. I would not spend it for anything, even motherhood, because I think that's the basic figure. That's a two-month cushion against being broke, and I think that's an appropriate figure. Again, I welcome the discussion. I think it's time for us to consider how much money we want to spend past what we have. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Engel, followed by Senator Preister. Is Senator Engel on the floor? Yes, there he is, hurrying back.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, in Nebraska, you know, if you read the paper this morning, we are losing...we'd be losing people in the state of Nebraska if it wasn't for immigration. The reason we're losing a lot of those people is because of our tax situation here. And where I live, in South Sioux City, in northeast Nebraska, we're losing a lot of people going across the borders into Iowa and South Dakota because of the tax situation. And in this particular case, in this particular case, I especially appreciate getting rid of that tax on construction labor, because that was so confusing. It...the contractors couldn't keep track of it, and I think we didn't really gain as much as we thought we were going to gain from it. So that's one portion of it. The other portions, I don't totally agree with all of them, but I think we have to do this because, because if we don't start showing that's our trend, to lower taxes in the state of Nebraska, we're going to see more of an exodus than we have now. So I think it's very important that we do pass the tax package. I, too, am for a bigger reserve so we can get over these humps and so forth, but I do have the fear, since thinking about this quite a bit since we put this budget together, I do have the fear that the more you put into the reserves it will help us over, over the humps, but then when the people find there's money in there you know what happens to that. They go after it for other purposes, for more spending, and that's my biggest fear. So again, I don't think this is really enough, that we can't afford any more tax breaks than we're doing right now, but I do think it's the perception, if we don't start doing something in the state of Nebraska, we are going to lose more and more people, and you're