

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

April 7, 1998

LB 1104

these people worried about the plight of the state, why didn't they say that on the income tax cut? That's where I see what I label hypocrisy. It is easy to go after those people who have no organized voice, very easy. But I say again it is obscene when a poor widow lady pays the same rate of tax as multimillionaire Warren Buffet. But this Legislature as a whole does not care about that, because they see Warren Buffet as their constituent, but he's not. Warren Buffet always has Cherry Coke with him, and he drinks it like fish swallow water, I didn't say drink water. He has investments in Coca-Cola. He bought up millions of dollars in silver, not for coinage, but because it can be combined with another substance and put in a new type of battery. So we have people running around here, doing things for Warren Buffet and his ilk, thinking somehow it's going to put them in good with those people. We have far more constituents affected negatively by the sales tax. When people talk about the impoverished rural areas, they don't pay a lesser rate of sales tax because they're impoverished, but they have no money to give to politicians and politicians' causes. So I hear people now who expressed support for an indefinite extension of a sales tax cut, now somebody has got to them and put something in their water, and they're very concerned about two years. I have watched flip-flops in this Legislature ever since I've been here. I know that school people, the university and others have talked about how they may be damaged by a cut in the sales tax; they won't be damaged nearly as much by a half percent cut in the sales tax as they will be if I decide to have a long memory, when the NSEA brings bills in here next year, and when the university brings its budget and I find the others who have put a burr under the blanket of these people on this floor who have suddenly turned tail and are running the other direction. You all have a short memory, but I don't. You all cannot sustain anything, but I can. I've allowed Senator Maurstad to run with this attempt to cut the sales tax. But while he was talking about the marriage penalty, as it's called, as the most burdensome tax,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I got up and brought up the sales tax. This thing has been handled very poorly politically, and it is a political issue. And I have just watched, and I want the NSEA