

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

January 22, 2002 LB 259

boondoggle of the big shots who miscalculated. But why were they willing to roll the dice? I would get in a dice game if I roll the dice and every time I lost Senator Bourne has to pay but every time I hit I collect. So the big shots in Omaha could not lose. If the arena and convention center pay off they get the money. If it does not and the two of them go into the tank it's no sweat off their rear end because the city taxpayers will retire those bonds. Now if this body believes in a user tax, those who use a facility should pay for it, why did it refuse to accept my amendment for revenue bonds on those boondoggles in Omaha? Because the businessmen put the screws to the weak-kneed, milk-toast members of this Legislature. Anybody with strength controls this Legislature and runs it. Let any big business, let Union Pacific trundle a bill through here and it runs right through like Ex-Lax makes food run through the system of a person. Let ConAgra bring a bill, any of the big...Micron, who wound up making a jackass out of this state and still didn't come. But when it comes to something that relates to the interests of the citizens...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...all of the concern goes out the window and legislators become so concerned with the details. This bill is a boondoggle for the county. It allows them to raise taxes at a time when pretty soon we on this floor are going to become very cranky in trying to protect certain turf from being cut. And, yet, you're giving the counties the authority to raise taxes, and Senator Wehrbein said it's for every county in the state. So how are you going to reconcile those two notions to the public? People may be dumb, but they become awfully smart when their fat pockets become thin pockets because politicians have not looked out for their interests.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Janssen, you're recognized to clo...Senator Chambers, I'm sorry, I didn't see your light.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legis...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.