

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

April 8, 2002

LB 1085

raised cigarette tax a couple of times. Beer taxes haven't been raised since 1987. This is the first time we've even talked about it. And I don't like earmarking either, but we're desperate to find some dollars and we can't find the General Fund. The...this body agreed to take money away from the uses that were provided under the cigarette tax fund. Didn't...didn't cut cigarette tax any; just put the tax...put the tax money some place else, which is fine. That was what the...at least the majority of the body agreed to, and there's nothing I can do about that. Now we're just asking for some help in trying to do something for the buildings we own. As I indicated earlier, the majority of these buildings are scattered throughout the state. The majority of them are here at the University of Nebraska, but almost all of you have some buildings in your district that are supported by funds from the cigarette tax and now would be also supported and maintained by the beer tax. If you don't want to do it so be it, but I think you're making a mistake. I think we need the money. We have right now an excellent group of people who are in charge of the building and maintenance division over at the...across the street with the 309 Task Force who have done an excellent...absolutely excellent job of maintaining these funds, make sure that they're spent to the best advantage that there is, and that's important. These...these...all of these maintenance problems are reviewed and scheduled through the 309 Task Force, who is continually on the lookout for problems and addressing the issues that are brought to them, and reviewing them and going through them with the people in these buildings to see that the money is spent in the best possible manner, and I think that's important. We need to get the most bang for the buck as we can and that's what they're doing over there and I think that this is a way we show appreciation--to give them the money to do what needs to be done. If you want the buildings to go...continue to deteriorate then that's your choice. We're just giving you an opportunity to catch up a little bit on the problems that we're facing in the buildings of the state of Nebraska from one end of the state to the other. It isn't any particular area and I don't point out any particular place except to tell you that I have, again, I'm telling you that I have viewed a lot of the problems, problems with the...with the corrections, with the...all the different areas that the state