

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

February 21, 2001 LB 329

consistent with the principles that were laid in front of this Legislature and adopted at that time. Now, because it is convenient perhaps, we can now ignore that consistency, for whatever reasons we can rationalize for ourselves...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...so that we can go home and maybe not, maybe not have to face a constituent and say, I voted today in a way that is eventually going to cost you money and I'm sorry about that.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. The lights that are on, wishing to address AM074 are Senators Kruse, Beutler, Hilgert, Kristensen, Preister, Janssen, Robak and Cunningham. Senator Kruse, on that amendment.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. All this talk about principle is wonderful and I'm charmed by it, but there's one thing that's being left out of this. I'm for the principle that's being talked about, but why wasn't that done and why isn't...why would it be done now without accommodation of budgets? What we're really considering doing here is on one sunny day voting to reduce the budgets of several of our cities, without any hearing, without any response, just reduce them. If we are going to put this in, let's adjust the cap. But we're really reducing the cap if we adopt this bill. I yield the rest of my time to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you have about...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, let me, in the kindest way possible, suggest this. The members of the Revenue Committee have stood up and argued strenuously for principle, and yet who brought us the first crack in principle? The NRD provision is an exception from principle, is it not, because it gives latitude to the NRDs to add money to their budgets? It's an exception and a departure from principle, and that's what's confused me about this whole bill. It's like the Revenue Committee wants to say, it's all right to make an exception over here but not over here, which begins to translate