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April 24, 2001 LB 305, 543

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. With some reluctance I rise again in opposition to the amendment adopted by the committee on which I serve. I was the dissenting vote on this...on this matter. And, again, I just want to restate for the record that I cast no ill will toward anybody with whom I served on that committee. We all went into this with our eyes wide open. We operated under certain assumptions and now we know that those assumptions were flat wrong. The money that we thought was coming into the state is not coming in any more. A lot of the people in this state are hurting. They are not earning as much money as they were. They are not paying as much taxes as they were. And our solution for those people is let's make them pay more property taxes to solve our budget problem, rather than going back to the budget and saying what can we cut? So I'm going to vote no on this amendment and I urge you do the same. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Jones, on AM1567 to the committee amendments.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President, members of the body, I would stand in opposition to this. I realize that this money was supposed to be there when we had this surplus money but this was a direct property tax relief. I mean dollar for dollar across our area, and I thought that was really great and heard a lot of compliments from my district on it, how that had showed up on their real estate tax as a reduction that was really visible. Now, all of a sudden, we're going to come right back on it. And now, also, with some of the provisions in LB 305, if that causes to raise the mill levy, that will make more property tax, too. So we're going to hear a lot of complaints if we do both of these this year. I know that we did this because we had the extra money at the time and I knew it probably wouldn't last but here it is going off, so I'm still going to complain that I'd like to see it go on forward and I think that that's what Senator Wickersham was talking about. I would like to see community colleges come clear off of local property taxes. I