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LB 1085

have grown. I do not know if we'll be able to rein in that category. But if we are unable to rein in that category, we can't do something temporary, as Senator Pederson is proposing that we do, and I believe it is appropriate for us to roll back part of the income tax reduction in 1997. Because it is only through that mechanism that we can assure ourselves of even coming close to the ongoing revenues that will be necessary to fund state operations as we now know them. Now, I understand the people are in favor of making cuts. We should certainly reduce expenditures whenever we can do so. But you need to be cognizant, I think, of the fact that if we're going to reduce those expenditures, the only area in which we can effectively alter our current state of fiscal affairs is in the category of aid to individuals and those programs, such as Medicaid, which is almost impossible to cut or to control the expenditures. There aren't, as I've suggested before, I think any easy ways to do that. We're more than aware that if we cut aid to local governments that we are likely to cause an increase in property taxes. If we cut aid to the university we are likely to cause an increase in tuition, with an attendant difficulty for students who do not have adequate means to attend. So I...it is...it is not a simple task to do what some have suggested but I, again, will not support Senator Pederson's amendment because we need something, in my estimation, that is...has greater permanence to it, and I do not believe it is...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...appropriate to simply add on extra revenues in LB 1085 at a moment when we would not need those revenues to balance.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Chambers, Bourne, Don Pederson, and Vrtiska. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'd waive for the moment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: He waives off. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature,