

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

April 8, 2002

LB 1085

complication is the fact that most of us are not our own people. We let others dictate to us and order us about as though we're little puppy dogs and "dogesses". I won't use that other word which is totally appropriate but on the floor it wouldn't come out right. People wouldn't understand it. I haven't been engaging in the discussion because it's pointless, for me; a waste of venom. This bill is, to all intents and purposes, perhaps a dead thing. Senator Beutler was telling you how many votes it would take to get it across the floor. If you got enough votes to send something over there that contained a tax increase other than on the cigarettes and the Governor vetoes it, how many of you all are going to vote to override when he's going to tell the public you voted for a tax increase? And most of you are terrified because he has persuaded you that there is something sinful, evil and inappropriate about the government using the only legitimate means at its disposal to raise revenue. Taxation is the direction that any responsible government will go. This Legislature, as is the case with others around the country and even Congress, will allow itself to be put into a corner where members will say, I will never vote for a tax increase. That is stupid, that is unreasonable, it is irresponsible. And the Governor can get away with it because all he has to do is line-item veto what we send over there, but we are the ones who control the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...raising of revenue and the appropriation of that revenue, not him. He can be totally irresponsible. If he criticizes us, so what? We're going to be criticized and ridiculed by everybody anyway. Let the ridicule and criticism come because we have done something of substance. Then, in good conscience and high spirits, you can let the criticism run off you like water off a duck's back. But people are running around here like chickens with their heads cut off saying, what's going to happen, what...what, as though they'd don't have a part to play in what is going to happen. They seem to have conceded to somebody else outside this Chamber the right and the authority to determine how this revenue shortfall is going to be dealt with.