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FLOOR DEBATE

May 13, 2003

LB 407, 759

of the debate on the Erdman amendment, we're all searching for cuts, this seemed to me to be an easy...and I don't mean that with any disrespect...but an easy \$6 million. Stop a program before it starts. That's \$6 million. And then, just so we can begin to discuss it, there is another cut that can be made and we can be at \$25 million in two amendments. And I'll forecast that to you. We are providing to our cities, aid to cities...look at your goldenrod book...right at \$17 million a year...or \$17 million a biennium in aid to cities. And under LB 759, there will be about 18-19 million dollars of new revenue to the cities, based upon the expansion of the base. So if you're hunting for vertical cuts, here's \$6 million, there's \$17 million. That's how you begin to total \$25 million, plus or minus, and you begin to get where it seems to be the will of the body to go. I urge the serious consideration of Senator Raikes' amendment and its adoption. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Chambers, on the Raikes amendment, AM1802.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to have to listen to the debate on this issue before I decide what I'm going to do. Because the program does have merit. Senator...the back benchers did make some points that are worthy of consideration. I was following the debate on Senator Erdman's proposal, and before I had a chance to finish my rhymed response to it somebody called the question. And you know I can't let a thing go to waste, so here's what it would have said, addressing the questions to me. "Question: You are not speaking? / Answer: Of course, of course. / Question: Why not? / This is a stalking-horse. / Question: A stalking-horse? What is that? / Answer: Much like a desperado's hat. / Question: That tells me nothing. What do you mean? / Answer: No desperado, wary and lean, ever, entering a room, risks a hair. He wants to know in advance who is there. Never would he lead with his head. His hat he tosses in instead. If there sounds no firearm's boom, then his head he'll stick in the room. / Question: Grasping that point, I can, I can. Stalking-horse, hat, and also straw man, each is only a means, my friend? / Answer: Only a means, and never an end. Each is fueled by one desire. / Question: Only to draw the enemy's