

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

May 27, 2003

LB 407

and the Legislature generally hasn't been sensitive to all different points of view, and that we have not been...we have not made adequate compromises with different elements of society and different branches of government. But I want to assure you that the Appropriations Committee has certainly worked hard to do that, and I think the Legislature as a whole has. And I want to remind you that we've made two large compromises, first of all with respect to the Governor's original budget, which recommended \$700 million in cuts, if you consider subsequent revenue decreases in the predictions. The Appropriations Committee responded to that suggestion with \$390 million in cuts. That was the first significant compromise between branches. And then recall that during the session, we compromised with each other. We had a long discussion over the Erdman amendment. There was some considerable support for that. And there was another \$30 million of compromise, a reduction in state aid to schools and the university, which many of us felt badly about. But that brought our total cuts from 390 to about 420 million; \$420 million in cuts. And on the revenue side, we sit at around \$340 million. So we're doing more cutting, considerably more cutting than we are revenue raising. It's a difficult balance, in any situation. It is most difficult when it is the most difficult of fiscal situations in more than half a century. But I think it was a job well done, altogether, and that we exercised good judgment in what we sent to the Governor. And I think we should continue to exercise that good judgment in affirming what we did in the first instance. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Bromm on the motion to override.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. And I think my remarks might be aimed at all three issues, to some extent, that are before us this afternoon. Last week, or the week before, whenever it was, when Senator Chambers, who I've heard expound for 11 sessions, rose to actually say he was very proud of this body, and after I realized that he was actually not delirious, but very serious, I thought about that a lot, and it stuck with me, because I hadn't heard that before, and I knew he was serious about it. And these are very, very tough issues, and very tough decisions. But I also want to say that I am very