

September 30, 1992 LB 11

the property tax, you're creating pressure on the property tax. Well, that ain't necessarily so, not if you're doing the same thing that we're called upon to do and that is to tighten up a little bit. So that's the first thing I wanted to indicate or to dwell on a little bit in opposing this particular amendment. And the second thing is to point out that with regard to this special session these MIRE funds, of course, come out of the part of our budget which is aid to local government. As compared to the other portions of the budget, the amount of money that we're culling out of that portion of the budget, which is aid to local political subdivisions, is very, very small compared to the percentage that we're culling out in the other areas. Now these figures aren't completely up to date because we just made a few changes. But they are essentially correct I think and they indicate that out of the operations part of the budget the cuts have been about 2.8 percent but that includes a couple of transfers and some other things that you may not consider cuts. But I think it is clearly up around 2 percent out of state operations. Out of higher education it's about 1.5 percent, another state operation. But out of aid to local political subdivisions and that whole part of the budget, right now it's not even 1 percent; it's .71 percent. If we further reduce that by adopting this amendment, from my perspective at least, the cuts that are being made are further...are more disproportionate than they even are right now. So I don't think that local political subdivisions all, considering what Scotty has said, considering what you all know, considering the situation generally, are not being called upon to make even as much of a sacrifice as a great many other segments of our population are being asked to make. And I don't think it's unreasonable what the Appropriations Committee has done and what we have done to date and I hope we will hold to that and not further dilute our package of cuts. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker, members, I certainly understand Senator Moore's concerns and I would agree with Senator Beutler; but we have to remember several years back we did commit ourselves here. We made a commitment for 20 years. I think we should honor these commitments. Senator Beutler says it's not much of the budgets for the municipalities and so on. If the cities and municipalities have pledged these dollars, this means a lot to them simply because we put a cap on these municipalities. When we tell them how much they can spend and