

September 30, 1992 LB 11

budgeting, that they were willing to buy into a 20-year program on a cigarette tax, which is, when you look at it on its face, is ludicrous. They should not have the ability to walk away from this budget-cutting session and be immune. And it should be something that is spread out the entire population, and not just targeted groups that basically don't have anyone to defend them, that don't have the kind of lobby that the subdivisions of government, in this case the cities, have, and that can lead the charge in these kinds of amendments. I appreciate the sincere effort that folks who support this...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...have put forward. It's clearly a policy decision, and it doesn't mean that those who support it are the bad guys and those that want to make sure that the cuts come in are the good guys, by any stretch of the imagination. What it is is it's a question of how do we allocate the...what's become a very difficult situation, and that being cutting the budget. It ought to be allocated to everyone. And this, probably more than any other cut that we've dealt with on the floor, whether it be the General Fund across the board, or the specific programs, is the fairest of all in terms of, as Senator Schellpeper pointed out, it's done on a per capita basis. It's done by population, and the cuts will be uniform. And it isn't to the core root of their budget, it is to the cream, it is to the special things that they would first cut themselves if they found themselves in the situation we find ourselves today. I would urge you again to reject Senator Conway's amendment and, as Senator Wesely pointed out, move LB 11 over to Final Reading.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Question.

SPEAKER BAACK: That won't be necessary, yours is the last light on. Senator Conway, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Very briefly, in closing, as I mentioned in the opening, what it basically does is limit what we're doing for a specific time period. And somewhat in response to Senator Hall's concern, with respect to is it property tax relief or not property tax relief, I think any activity that goes on at the subdivisional governmental level is, whatever that project would be, for the most part, one