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LB 880

mouth, and that applies to this Legislature as well.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. President, members. I promise only 30 seconds. It's difficult to understand the state budget. And I won't reiterate what's been said, because I couldn't if I wanted to. I want to make one point. Last year, I passed a bill...we passed a bill, LB 695, that sent back...what, \$12 million, \$13 million...with the help of Senator Wickersham, million dollars back to our district. Many of us don't understand, why do we collect sales tax and income tax? Why do we collect it? We don't spend it on ourselves, we don't spend it necessarily for the state; we send it back for property tax relief. Does that show as an expenditure? That's my question to you. Does that show as an expenditure? We spent \$12 million, \$13 million, \$14 million. This year I'll probably spend another so many dollars likewise. Many of us will. Does that expenditure of ours...? That goes back to the locals to spend. That shows up on our budget, I think, as an expenditure. And the people see that as us increasing our budget, as Senator Kristensen alluded to. We're not spending those dollars. I said 30 seconds, but I'm going to say it one more time. That goes back to the locals. It shows as an expenditure. We have to make that perfectly clear that we're not spending that, the locals are. And that's why we're collecting those dollars, to help out where we can. No more inflation; we're going to spend more. It's going to show as an expenditure. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close on your motion to bracket LB 880E.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just one comment in response to Senator Lynch's very tantalizing invitation. The reason we have to read the newspaper, the reason we ought to read editorials, is so that we can see what the public is being told about how the state's business is conducted. Not one of us has access to news columns and editorial pages as the editorial writers and the uninformed or misinformed reporters will have. So if we don't read it, we're