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would have more latitude in using it, say, to lower property tax levies instead?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: It may have some effect in that regard, but that isn't...the intention was to simply set a fixed relationship so you...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...didn't have...

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. We are discussing the Wickersham amendment to LB 1107. Senator Wehrbein, did you wish to...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. This is for Senator Wickersham, and I admit it may be more to the bill than it is to the amendment. But on the other hand, since you're talking about the 45 percent, 46 percent, where did the 45 percent come from? I'd like a little philosophical discussion of that. Is it because it makes it fiscally neutral, or are you looking at 45 percent being one of the three legs or...why...what...I just was interested in your philosophical approach, probably in the committee, about 45 percent.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you yield, Senator Wickersham?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes. Senator Wehrbein, I'll have to confess that it was a two-step process. As the concept was being developed, my initial direction to the staff was produce a bill that is fiscally neutral. That was my initial direction, produce a bill that is fiscally neutral. They came back to me and said, well, you can do that at 45 percent. I said, great, that's a round number, sounds like a good number to me, that means that the state is furnishing or that property taxes are less than half support, great. That's a wonderful objective. I'm comfortable with 45 percent, draft the bill. The bill gets introduced, the bill has a hearing, I think 45 percent is still the right number. I think that it's still fiscally neutral. Walk back to my office very proud of myself, said, the bill is