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FLOOR DEBATE

April 24, 2003 LB 540

SENATOR CUDABACK: Your time is...

SENATOR TYSON: (Laugh) Thank you,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: I apologize. I said "rolling."

SENATOR TYSON: ...Senator Cudaback, members of the body. I have just been alerted by "Devil" Landis, and again, I say to you, when you deal with Senator Landis, it's like dealing with the devil. Who sups with the devil needs use a long spoon. I'll just give you a quick reprise of what I've already said. A situation has existed since 1997-98, when the student base of Northeast Community College was set. And I would point out to you, and I may not have mentioned this before, there was a deal made, and Northeast Community College bought into it because another community college, I believe it was Southwest, needed some help. Senator Landis mentioned, when he spoke, that there were other solutions to this, and I agree with that. What I don't agree with is that they can be put into motion immediately, because they can't. And the need, while immediate, is also ongoing. Now, if at some time or the other, Senator Landis can charm a deal, I'm all for it. If Senator Raikes can come up with a solution, I'm all for it. But in the mean time, help is needed. And it's not needed in the manner that...I think it was Samuel Johnson, in his letter to Philip Stanhope. He said, is not a patron, my lord, one who encumbers a drowning man with aid once he reaches the shore? We need the help now when we're sinking. We don't need it now when we...later when we get to the shore. We will cooperate with any deal. But the help is there. The help is there within the community that NECC services and services so well. I would point out to you again that the six senators whose counties encompass the area served by NECC have all spoken to you, and they have told you that they support raising their taxes, not yours. I ask for an informed vote on your part, and that would be a vote yes. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. All members present or accounted for. You've heard the closing on AM1286. The question before the body is adoption of AM1286 to LB 540. There's been a request for a roll call vote. Mr. Clerk, call the roll, please.