

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 13, 2003

LB 407

SENATOR MOSSEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. One thing that stuck in my mind from the beginning of this process was when Speaker Bromm said that it should be the Legislature that should be deciding the budget that gets sent to the Governor, and that's one of the things I've tried to focus on. And the biggest problem I had...and, which is no surprise, I voted no on all the new tax increases...is how do you budget...balance a budget without overtaxing an already overtaxed citizen group? You don't have to look around very much or hear from many people that say, we don't want...no new taxes. But there has to be a way to do it without increasing the taxes. And the problem I've had is all the new tax increases are all going to affect the people that we're trying to help. I don't know how you help people when you're taxing the repairs that they have to do, and everything of that sort. That's why I commend Senator Erdman for bringing a possible compromise to something. Because Senator Chambers is right. What will happen is, if whatever goes through, whether appropriations or whatever, we'll probably be back for a special session. A special session will just be on cuts. So, in order for us not to come up with something that we can all agree on would be an injustice. Senator Preister and I were talking the other day, it's ironic, when you look around at the members of the Legislature, just about everybody in here has worked at least one occupation or another that is affected by this budget. And there have been good offers and proposals by every committee in here. And by no way does that take anything away from the Appropriations Committee. Like everybody said, I wouldn't...I don't know anybody that wanted to be on Appropriations Committee this time around, or even the Revenue Committee, to try and find the money. But I do agree that we need to find some middle ground, without overtaxing the citizens, while still balancing the budget and meeting the needs of the state, which I think can be done if we take a look at the Erdman amendment and just give it a fair chance and then speak on it. With that, I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Erdman to elaborate more.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Mossey. How much time do I have?