

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

adopted. Mr. Clerk. We are now back to Senator Dwite Pedersen's amendment as it was amended. Lights are still on. Senator Smith, followed by Senators Janssen, Thompson, Wehrbein, Don Pederson, and Stuhr. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. What was originally going to be a bold vote certainly diminishes as we delay the boldness of the vote, and that's why I rise in opposition to this. I believe that it places a relief measure that has false hope. We're already talking about studying the issue, studying that supposed bold move, and I believe that we're just delaying it. And that's why I can't support this, and I hope that we can utilize our resources wisely on...in the measure of time, and in the measure of staff time, to approach this issue...the budget issue in general, a little more straightforward rather than delaying some of these decisions. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Janssen, on the Dwite Pedersen amendment.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. When I go home to the district, you know, I try to explain to people what the biggest part of our budget is, and we all know. It's three things: education, Corrections, and Medicaid. That's about 86 percent of our budget. Well, folks, we're taking a whack at one of those three of the big three. And I think that this will...this will show our constituents and the people of this state that we are serious. It's not a large amount of money, but it's part of the big three. What's going to be next? I'm sure there will be amendments and bills that are going to take a whack at the others. We've already started on education, Health and Human Services. That's all going to hurt someone. But maybe...maybe this will bring the people in this state to realizing that we are serious down here. We are trying to correct the deficit we've got. I don't like to do what we're doing here, but I believe it's the means by where we're going to have to come to, to an agreement so that we can balance this budget, one step at a time. The only problem is we're just got a few days left. Maybe we should have been looking at this way back when, earlier in the session, but it