

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

May 27, 2003

LB 283

didn't have to. I think we made our job more difficult and I think we added the cynicism of the public when we did it, and I think we paid a cost for that in the public's belief in what we do. And to me, that is at least what I meant. That's certainly a significant part of what I meant in that whole phrase. Senator Tyson said, look, we need to do this to make clear what our motives are and what our motives aren't. I'm not sure why Senator Tyson gets to determine our motives. Senator Tyson has been voting against the tax increases. So for us to make clear what the Legislature's motives are, which he does not participate in but he wants to make crystal clear by the Brown amendment which he does support, seems to me a little difficult to do. If somebody should define what our motives are, my guess is it should be Senator Wehrbein and Senator Brashear, Senator Raikes and myself and others who have, in fact, put us into this place where we are now, rather than somebody who has not been supporting it. And, by the way, I'm not so sure our motives can be reduced to simply one set of things. My guess is our votes are pretty personal. They come from us, our philosophy, our belief, our thing of what we think is right and wrong, and it's not like there's one set of motives that this body has. We're 49 individuals who act collectively when we get a majority and that doesn't mean that we have one clear mind-set and a single motive. Our goals may be different. I think our essential goals are keeping the ship of state afloat in the best possible circumstances it can be, and that is a job that is hard year after year, and there should be no diminution just because we're going to have a Legislature without term limits. And if you aren't offended by this amendment, I am. The amendment that I've just put up that says, oh, the Legislature can't change tax rates next year, can't lower them; we've got to wait for 2007 or the year after or the year after. The Legislature was embodied with the power of the public to do its will on the circumstances and the conditions they were in. We shouldn't reach out a dead hand, and this amendment is wrongheaded, but so is the underlying amendment. Mr. Clerk, I ask to withdraw the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Amendment is withdrawn. Back to the Brown amendment itself. Senator Landis, did you wish to...the question has been called. Do I see five hands? Two, three,