

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

May 27, 2003

LB 407

are competitive systems. The anti-tax groups are not all wrong. Politicians will spend the money if you give it to them. Look at what happened in this Chamber in the nineties. We need to do better too. I'm going to vote for the override. As you can see,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...we still have a lot of work to do. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Mines, followed by Senators Brown, Landis, Jones, and Redfield. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. For what it's worth, I entered this body in January with conservative fiscal values. And I believe I still have those conservative fiscal values. I campaigned on less government. I campaigned on less spending. And two out of three voters chose me, primarily because of that reason. Most of my supporters, and most of my colleagues...or, my constituents, believe that state government spends too much money. I believed that then, and I believe it now. I believe that state government does in fact have room for cuts in spending. However, I did sit through the debate in this body, listened intently, participated when it was appropriate, and often bit my lip as I listened to appropriations and revenue proposals. And I learned. And I believe I spent time understanding the budget and understanding the way this process works. Because this is a process. It's not a pretty process, but it's our process. Given the circumstances that this body was presented with, I believe that we did good work. I believe that we arrived at the best budget that we could, given those circumstances. Is it a perfect budget? Absolutely not. Is it a budget that I would draw up myself? It is not. But it's the best product that this body could deliver, and I'm going to support that product. I will not apologize to anyone for my decision to support this budget. And I will not apologize to anyone for the body's decision to deliver this budget. I will not apologize for the work we have done this year. I will not sustain the Governor's vetoes. I