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FLOOR DEBATE

May 27, 2003

LB 407

for me to vote for this budget. But I know that there are people out there, senior citizens who have seen their investments and certificates of deposits decline, month after month after month, and their expenses go up, month after month after month. And that's the picture in my mind. Americans went \$2.25 trillion further in debt this year. Did they do it so that they could spend it frivolously? Well, perhaps some did. And we would tell them that that wasn't fiscally wise. But some were refinancing their homes, just so that they could survive their day-to-day bills. And how many of them are locked into monthly payments that they're just barely making? And when the house of cards comes crashing down because they can't make those payments, government services will be even more in demand. Most of our citizens are not asking for the government to do more for them. They're only asking that the government allow them to keep the money that they make so that they can take care of themselves and their loved ones. They're not asking for handouts. They're just asking to survive.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR REDFIELD: This isn't a high-income state. I wish it were. But that's why I can't vote for the spending increases here. There are parts of the bill I wholeheartedly support. But overall, I know that as a leader, I'm called upon to set the example. Not to say others should make the sacrifice, that I should be willing to make the sacrifice first. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease? All in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed nay. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 5 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate does cease. Senator Wehrbein, you're