

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

March 18, 2004 LB 1089

was if I were king for a day I would not be pay...I would close all the colleges and make them private or make them at least pay...raise the tuition to the point where people were paying for their education instead of the state paying for it. I'm not saying I support that kind of thing, but that was an idea, thinking out of the box. We don't even close a school, let alone, you know, think anything about raising the tuition, which we can't do anyway, they do that. And, again, I don't know that we should close any schools, but I know this. I have seen the community colleges grow in this state and they are good schools. They grew to...they started out as being nothing but technical schools and now they're are full-fledged colleges as far as getting two-year degrees. And they got most of their students from our state colleges and university system and enrollment has been down and we still kicked in the same amount of money to them schools plus more each year with their raise in cost. They've had a few more students but their enrollment is quite a ways down across the state from what it used to be and what we've contributed is not down. We cut them last year pretty good and the year before, but as I see that is we've crippled a few schools, and so instead of having a few good schools, we've got a whole bunch of crippled schools. And that's the way I see it. Doesn't mean I have the only...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: ...vote in here. I don't never try and sell myself in that fashion. But we...I do believe we have to think more out of the box and we have to force these agencies to think more outside of the box, instead of just saying we'll raise sales tax a half a cent; we'll have to send the...back to the schools so they can hit the property tax another .5. We've got to stop somewhere, people. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Mr. Clerk, an amendment on the desk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers, would move to amend the committee amendments with AM3216. (Legislative Journal page 1136.)