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FLOOR DEBATE

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has gotten us into a thunderstorm right now and we're being rocked around pretty hard and we may have to grab it and throw out the averages we use, revenue growth projections and things using averages. These aren't average times. I just...as I sat home last weekend, it was 87 degrees Friday afternoon in my hometown. People took off their winter shirts and they got sunburns; 87 degrees in March does not bode well for an end of the drought when we start March or the end of March with 87 degree temperatures and no moisture. And so we're not real optimistic out there. I listened with interest when Senator Don Pederson said we have a revenue problem here rather than spending. We need to address it on the revenue side. I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein a question about our current revenue growth if he would answer, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, would you respond?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BAKER: I know you would have the latest figures and I believe I'm fairly close, the revenue growth projected for this fiscal year ending June 30 is, what, between 3 and 4 percent or is there a better figure than that?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: This fiscal year of '03-04 is 3.9.

SENATOR BAKER: Three point nine...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: February forecast reflect a 3.9 growth.

SENATOR BAKER: Three point nine percent growth and we're standing here wringing our hands about lack of revenue and the problems we're in in the state when we're growing at 3.9 percent, folks. I wish I got that kind of growth every year, year in and year out on all my things that I try and do. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. But 3.9 percent growth in revenue and we can't live within our means at 3.9 percent growth. That reflects back on some of the things that Senator Landis said. We've got these programs out there and actually it upsets me that we have such a negative attitude with the state's economy right now because 3.9 percent growth is a pretty solid growth