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March 23, 2004 LB 983, 1065

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker, are you...Senator Baker, will you respond?

SENATOR BAKER: Yes, I would.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Baker, does LB 1065 have a provision to raise the gas tax?

SENATOR BAKER: It does in through the LUST Fund, three-tenths of a cent a gallon.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I have been as cooperative as I have ever been these last few days. Some fighters, when it comes to professional fighting, are called gym fighters. They train and they do real well. They punch a bag, they stand in front of the glass and they bob and weave, and nobody lays a glove on them, and that's how they stay in shape and they stay out of the ring. Other fighters fight to stay in shape. They stay in shape by fighting. I haven't been fighting around here, and I'm losing my edge. This bill that we're on, if it contains an increase in the gas tax, is going to give me a chance to do some warming up for LB...is it LB 1065? LB 1065. I want Senator Baker to be ready because I'm going to do all I can to kill that bill. I don't care anything about contracts. I don't care about obligations. I don't care about anything except not raising the gas tax. There are investigations being called for right now because of the skyrocketing cost of gas at the pump. And I am not going to be in this state and allow, without a strong fight, an increase in the gas tax. Senator Connealy's amendment has got to go. And if it doesn't, then this bill has got to go. You think any of these bills mean anything to me? Not one of them means the pop of a finger to me, not one. That's why I'm picking and choosing now. I'm not going after just every bill, but those that I think really work mischief and harm the public. I tried to keep my blind colleagues from falling into that ethanol trap, but they plunged headlong anyway because they're hard-headed, they don't know anything, they won't listen to anybody. They say experience is the best teacher and some will have no other. Well, now that they've gotten us into this mess by kowtowing to