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FLOOR DEBATE

March 31, 2004 LB 1090

exempting certain levels of low-income people up to a cap of \$21 million over three years. The money would go into the Cash Reserve Fund. The Cash Reserve Fund would hold the money, but the Governor would be allowed to take money out of the Cash Reserve Fund, to the extent of money put in by virtue of this surcharge, to deal with the low-level nuclear waste decision.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening on the Beutler amendment, AM3474, to LB 1090. (Visitors introduced.) Discussion of the Beutler amendment, Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: Mr. President and members of the body, as a member of Appropriations, this session we have made additional cuts. We have cut to where we've crippled. If we go back and cut again it's just going to be...it's just going to be terrible and...so I am going to be supportive of this amendment. I was supportive of the half-cent sales tax, I would be supportive of the income tax, and I am going to support now this proposal before us. Placing this over a three-year period will raise the monies that we need. When the goal is reached, then this tax will be removed. I have been visited with at church, the grocery store, renting a car this past week, and all of this about this amount of money that we are faced with. Of course, they want to know how we got into it, whose fault it is. The thing is, I don't care whose fault it is. We're there. And when they say pay, we are going to have to pay. And you look at the interest that's accumulating on this, the \$25 million attorneys' fees that have already been paid out of this, it's just like a big boulder that's going to come down the mountainside and just crush us. I am...I am really, really, really concerned. Of course, the taxpayer says to me, okay, so you put on some additional tax; how do we know how to...how can we trust you that when you reach that amount you will remove this from us? There's a lack of trust and so we will be held accountable if we place a tax, whether it be income, sales, or a tax on electricity, that when we have reached our goal, that that will be removed. But I am just...I am very, very concerned because we will need to pay. And I know how we run our homes. If you know you have an obligation, you begin to save or you prepare for this. I don't want to obligate other Legislatures