

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

March 31, 2004 LB 1090

or legislators to find a solution for this. We need to address this. I have felt in my heart for a couple years this was coming. It's here. It is here. And so I will be supportive of this amendment and I say to the taxpayers, people that are listening, when this goal of funding is reached, this will...tax will be removed. And so as taking money out of the Cash Reserve, we can do that. I want to take as little as we have to. Let's build up an account so that when they say pay up, we are able to pay up. Thank you very much. I return the remainder of my time to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Price, thank you very much. Let me just take a little bit more time to talk about the utility surcharge. I think, basically, it is very simple, and I guess that's, like the sales tax, that is a good quality of this tax. So administratively, I don't think there are any significant problems. Obviously, today what we need to decide is the basic concept of what we want to do. A bill can be brought back from Final Reading to fill in technical details, whether it's this bill or Senator Brashear's bill or Senator Hartnett's bill. Today the decision has to be argued on a philosophic and broad level to determine what it is...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...basically we should be doing. I want to compare this tax to a sales tax, and to an income tax a little bit, and to Senator Brashear's proposition, but I'm not going to have time to do that in half a minute. So, Senator Price, thank you again, and I think I'll give the rest of my time back.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You have 30 seconds, Senator Price, did you wish to...? Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm going to speak primarily to the fact that I think we have a responsibility to meet this, and we have really a responsibility to do this now before next year. I have my druthers on the