

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

March 31, 2004 LB 1090

\$60 on the Forecasting Board. Fifty or sixty would be reasonable to assume. We must go with the Forecasting Board figures, but it's reasonable to assume that we could pick up \$50 million or \$60 million on that. If we did, that would put us up to \$150 million and would go a long ways, a very long ways, to healing our problems as we enter the new biennium. Therefore, I would strongly support that. Then I would also comment on Senator Foley's image of poison. He listed three poisons. Well, there's a fourth poison and that's one we're paying already. We raise taxes one way or another just by doing nothing. Senator Redfield's amendment yesterday, which we gave serious consideration to, cut the revenue by over \$3 million. Over half of that would have been a cut to revenue. We do that. There's no way of avoiding that. We shift taxes and move them around. I wouldn't...I would choose a different image and I would hope we might think about a term of medicine instead, because we're...poison is dying. We're not dying here. We're taking some stiff medicine. And one of the places that's already been hurt is economic development. When we change the support to the university, we...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRUSE: ...affect economic development. We affect tuition. You know, all those costs shift unless we can find some way to take them away, and most of our appropriation work is trying to figure out how to keep those costs from migrating someplace else. So we need to look at taking our medicine, what are the side effects, what would be helpful over the long haul, and I'm confident that together we can do that which is helpful.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Johnson, followed by Senator Baker and others.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the body, I think that, what, there's only 12 or 13 on the list behind me, unless there's some new lights that have come on. I think we really had quite a good discussion here this morning and we're not done yet, and maybe we shouldn't be done yet. A couple things keep coming back to mind me, and I also wanted to put in a little bit of philosophy here this morning. First of all, I still can't