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FLOOR DEBATE

March 31, 2004 LB 1090

some more about it and about taxes generally. But I what would like to do, because I think it would be helpful to me and to all of us, is to hear Senator Brashear's proposal while you're all fresh and into this, and then go on...and then go on to the income tax proposal if necessary. And by that means, you will have an opportunity to hear all three of these things this afternoon. And what I'm going to do is withdraw this amendment and put it at the end of the pile so that you can hear the other two things. And if this is what you want to come back to, you can do that, or if one of the other two interests you more, you can do those things. But I would continue to appeal to you to do something, to coalesce around something and get all or part of the job done this year, so that there is no opportunity that we will be victimized by a perfect storm of unfortunate circumstances next year that might cause us to cut deeply into our government because I think that government is pretty lean at this point. So with that, Mr. Clerk, I would withdraw the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Brashear would move to amend with AM3454. (Legislative Journal page 1378.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear, you're recognized to open on AM3454 to LB 1090.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. AM3454 is the bond plan. It was designed to confront directly and wholly our multiple problems the way we have been discussing them. First, we face, and we discussed this this morning, the \$44,000 per day in interest on the low-level waste judgment situation. We have not put away a single cent in readiness for that problem, and you know that. Second, if we solve the judgment, our shortfall in the coming biennium remains at \$136 million according to the current status. We have declined thus far to solve that problem with the \$1.10 school levy and so it remains unsolved. Third, we continually revert to old solutions in order to avoid doing nothing different. If we can't do something daring to avoid obligating the taxpayers to this \$44,000 per day interest problem, \$16 million per year,