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FLOOR DEBATE

April 1, 2004            LB 1090

SENATOR CUDABACK:     Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the motion by Senator Chambers to reconsider the vote taken on FA1647. Senator Erdman, and...followed by others.

SENATOR ERDMAN:     Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Last evening at about 5:00, the Speaker decided that we should adjourn before I got a chance to talk. So, I wanted to make sure that I got a chance to talk today. That's a joke, for all of you following along. The...and I've been watching the debate. I've been listening. I haven't heard anybody criticize Senator Chambers ever for offering amendments, so I'm wondering where his last speeches were coming from. But I wanted to respond to some things that were said. Senator Johnson mentioned the comment that if anybody that didn't vote for the leadership of this state that got us into some problems that we currently are in should be taxed double. And I thought about that for a second, and I thought, well that's completely unfair to me; I was 13 when those individual were elected, in more than just one office, I'll say. Senator Chambers says, so what? But you know, I think it is interesting, because the problems that we face in the state today have come about by decisions made by a lot of individuals that were elected by the older generation in this state. And I think that's fine and that's appropriate. I don't think Senator Johnson was assuming otherwise. But there are lot of people that have moved to this state, and there are a lot of people like myself that have gotten old enough to be given the opportunity to vote and have taken advantage of that. But I wanted to make sure that there were some of us in here that saw what happened and really would have probably voted, but obviously the law didn't allow that. Here's what I think the problem is that faces us. It's not whether or not we solve a \$160 million problem. I think, realistically, if you ask everybody in the Legislature, the question is, when? When do we do it? Do we do it now? If we do it now, do we do it on one of these amendments? And I would offer just a speculation to the body that, with the exception of Senator Brashear's amendment, they're not germane. But I'm not going to challenge that, because others have challenged whether or not amendments I've offered were germane, and if they're not