

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

April 2, 2004

LB 1090

don't think it's the responsible thing to do. And I'm just...I'm sort of stunned that we're not doing anything this morning, Senator Janssen, because it was my impression when we left here last night--and we left here earlier than I thought we were going to leave--I thought there was going to be some kind of a working agreement that would be reached, and we'd come back here this morning, and that we would move forward with it. And obviously, that's not happening. But as my conversation with Senator Hudkins just a few minutes ago, you know, what's going to happen here, it's probably, we're going to come back next year and basically allow property taxes to rise even more, because we're going to have to cut things like state aid to education, and other important programs in this state. And I'm not going to go willingly and I'm not going to go without a voice. So I just want to, for the record, say I'm not going to vote for LB 1090 at this point, because I don't think we're doing the right thing. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Beutler, on LB 1090.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I just want to elaborate a little bit on my comment about the Governor, in the sense that Senator Pederson took issue with it. Let me say this. When the Governor came into this session, there were three things that I understood to be identified by him as things that we needed to do, and those things, those three things, were very expensive: the water policy issue, the mental health reform, and adding 120 case workers for, what was it, \$2 million or \$3 million the first year and more thereafter. Mental health will cost a lot of money thereafter, as Senator Jensen well knows. The water policy we're funding with other things right now, but that will take several millions of General Funds in coming years. Every one of those initiatives was a good one, in my opinion. I have no problem with that. Furthermore, as we went through February, I had no problem with the Governor's position as a whole, because right or wrong, whether I agreed with the particular solution or not, and I didn't agree with the particular solution, I voted for his entire package. I voted for the property tax portion, taking the levy to 10 cents, and I voted for the sales tax increase,