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FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2004 LB 1065

Senator Thompson, Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members. As someone else mentioned, we have a long day ahead of us here and I...we voted on this once. I tell you, I'm going to vote no on the reconsideration motion. Things have changed. When we put LB 1065 together, we felt, as a group, that it was well balanced, and we have taken the fuel tax out of it and substituted \$1.5 million per year out of the LUST Fund, the interest off of the LUST Fund. The balance isn't there anymore and Senator Beutler's amendment shifted it \$7.5 million back to the corn growers on a checkoff the last...by extending it one year. That .75 cent raises roughly \$7.5 million. For that reason, I just think that's the wrong way to go. We're going to back...be back visiting this issue, as Senator Raikes' amendment pointed out. I will look, bring something back to the body next session dealing with all the commodity boards, the mix, the ethanol board and so on. We're going to take a hard look at that. And I think it's just probably not a good decision to back up, reconsider this, and face...in light of the fact that we have a lot of work to do today. I'd like to maintain LB 1065. It gets us down the road a number of years. I think we can address it next year by looking at the bigger picture. So I'll vote red on the reconsider...reconsideration motion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Schrock on the reconsideration motion.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Beutler, in the...or Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Beutler, in the scheme of things, this isn't a deal breaker for me, but it kind of reminds me of the old story, don't tax me, tax the man behind the tree. As I saw the vote on the first round, it seemed like the urban senators were voting with you and the rural senators were voting against you. So you're putting a tax on the corn producers that's ten years out there. It's something the body is going to talk about the next nine years. I suppose, though, it doesn't matter a lot but I just wondered why we couldn't have left it alone and moved on and talked about this issue next year. But you're willing to put a one-year tax on corn growers ten years