

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

March 22, 2006 LB 968

by raiding our reserves. I don't think we should do that in that...to that degree. It just is too rich a package in my judgment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise in opposition to the bracket motion. As you might guess, I am concerned that when we have hard times we go back to the taxpayer and we ask them to help us out by increasing their tax burden at a time when it's very difficult for them. And then when times are good and it's time to pay them back we say, oh no, we should hang onto it. And I would agree with Senator Beutler if, in fact, we left the money sitting in a rainy day fund, but in fact it doesn't. Last week we spent a lot of money in the first round of the budget bills. We spent Cash Reserve money. We spent it for a career education program that Senator Stuhr brought to us. We spent it on HIV treatments that Senator Chambers brought to us. We spent money on the arts endowment, and we did it because we had the money, and that's exactly what happens in good times. The pressure is there for the Legislature to spend. And so I think it is naive if we believe that by not giving tax relief the money will sit in the bank and that future legislators will not spend it. I believe that we are deceiving ourselves. Now I don't think that the average citizen looks at what they want to purchase and says, okay, this is what I want to spend, this is what I want to appropriate, and then they go to their employer and say, this is what you have to pay me because this is what I need to pay for everything I want to do or need to do. And many of them are needs. It doesn't work that way in the real world, and it has to stop working that way in government. Because if it doesn't, government will eat up a larger and larger part of our gross national product, and we will see ourselves weakened as a state and as a country. Now that's just basic philosophy. We are asking the citizens of our country to take responsibility for themselves, for their loved ones, for their future, for their retirement, for their healthcare at a greater and greater pace, because these costs are increasing, and yet we are not willing to allow them to keep the fruits of their labor as they increase, even though it may not even result in more buying power or a better quality of