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FLOOR DEBATE

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from the public. If you go down to the bottom of the chart, in 2004-2005, you will see that the property tax is 4.1 percent, and that's of a total of 10.9 percent. So now property taxes have gone from more than half to less than 40 percent, probably right at 38 percent of the total amount of taxes, state and local, that come from the public. Likewise, you can look down the column for sales taxes, income taxes and other kinds of taxes, and you can see over time how the mix of taxes, the mix of revenues that we get from the public comes in. But it's somewhat frustrating to me that we seem to be not so interested in the total bottom line figure and how that can be justified, but more interested in the different pieces of the tax package. And I...and maybe...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...we do need to move on in the conversation. But I think it's extremely important for you to realize that there is a high degree of probability that if you enact the tax package at this level that you will not afford a future Legislature, which may include some of you, the ability to deal intelligently with the next downturn without appealing to the taxpayers for increased taxes at that time, or without draconian cuts to infrastructure items that we all think are important. So I would recommend that you give further serious thought to the overall numbers that we're talking about here.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you are recognized to close on your motion to bracket LB 968 till 3-29-06.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, only one person has spoken in favor of the motion, so I'm going to withdraw the motion, but I'm not...I'm not withdrawing in any way the facts and the information that I've given to you. This tax package overall, long term, is simply not sustainable, and when you show a \$194 million deficit that really should be \$294 million, because you're funding with one-time reserve funds, when you show that in your very best year, then you are not doing proper planning. We are simply not doing proper planning, and we need to find a way to stabilize revenues and stabilize tax rates so they don't go up at the wrong time and