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April 11, 2006 LB 1024A, 1024

SENATOR CORNETT: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Raikes and I have had a discussion at the back of the Chamber and I'm going to give him time until we come back to this issue on Select File to find answers or get answers to the questions in regards to impact aid. So I move to withdraw this amendment until Select File.

SENATOR CUDABACK: So ordered. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers...is Senator Chambers on...Senator Chambers waives his time. Senator Beutler, did you wish to speak? Senator Beutler, you're recognized if you do.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I do. I just want to make one comment and I haven't put all of this together yet, but I'm going to try to sometime later this afternoon. And I am not speaking necessarily in reference to this bill. I don't know if it's been mentioned to you or not or if any of you have looked at the green sheets lately. But if you count the bills we have on Final Reading and assume that they pass and count the bills we have on Select File and assume that they pass, we're \$305 million in the hole two years out. You know, when the Appropriations Committee budget came in front of you, that figure was way less than \$100 million. And then we had the tax cuts. And then we started adding expensive A bills. And now we're not up to the \$200 million level, but we're up to the \$300 million level. We only have \$326 million in the Reserve Fund, and remember the Reserve Fund was supposed to take care of decreases in revenues, not to cover excessive expenditures. So you know, I'm not sure where we're going here but LB 1024, unless I'm overlooking things, it's not on the green sheet and I would like to hear somebody talk about that. If it's not on the green sheet, whatever it costs is that much more in the hole. And then we have bills like the Early Childhood Endowment, which will require the replacement of \$40 million of state aid. That's not on the green sheet. I know you've got troubles enough today and so do I. But we really ought to be thinking of the big picture as we go along here, too. This is pretty serious stuff, it seems to me, and I would just stop at that point. Thank you.