

January-21, 1975

PRESIDENT: Could the clerk--it does according to the Clerk's message, Senator Marvel. Since, could you read the motion again.

CLERK: Mr. President, I move that the Governor's letter relating to capital construction be referred to the Appropriations Committee and that said committee review and report to the Legislature.

SENATOR MARVEL: Now, OK. We intend to do this, Senator Carsten, and we will do it sometime next week so I think we can go ahead and pass the motion, similar to a motion that we passed this morning in regard to the Ag Committee and we will proceed.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, as I understand the motion it refers specifically only to this project and I think we ought to be immensely careful in allowing the budgetary process to take place. As a matter of course I would suspect that Senator Marvel and his Committee will be reviewing all of the capital construction that we have under way and I certainly think that one of the things we can do and the sentiment is expressed here, Senator Marvel, that a review would be in order to look at where we are, but I would be inclined to oppose any particular motion looking at one particular item particularly in view of the fact that I consider it that Committee's responsibility to keep the Legislature apprised and abreast of the problems in regard to capital construction. First of all--so I would think that the Committee now has the understanding of the concern of the Legislature about capital construction and it is not dealing simply with this issue and I don't want to put us in a position or put anybody in a position with that particular project of suggesting that there is a holding action on it. I think that in a normal course the Appropriations Committee would have proceeded and is that correct, Senator Marvel, with an evaluation of this program. So I would suggest and I plan to vote against the motion and let the Appropriation process take place.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, we've all started out saying as I understand the motion and as I understand the motion, we are referring to the letter and, of course, the letter really goes into the whole area of capital construction. It refers to the cuts made in other states. As I understand what Senator Carstens pointed out, he said, look, we are going to be faced with some problems, probably on income and revenue, and maybe before we get to the end of the session, we should have some clear direction among the body or an idea as to what's contemplated and this would certainly seem to me to be very appropriate and it would seem it is almost reasonable for the Committee to maybe make this a top priority as this motion would probably have them do and begin looking at the overall picture. Senator Syas mentioned that we are talking about \$145,000 but I think the real picture that the Governor's letter and Senator Carster is trying to bring out is he wants us to look at the overall capital construction picture, whether we are talking about millions for penitentiaries or whatever, and he thinks it would be wise if we had some indication from the Appropriations Committee rather quickly or at least in the very near future here as to what direction we are going to go. I think we are going to end up,