

March 4, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body. LB 176 is the bill that raises the minimum wage for the first three categories of employees of the state to the new minimum wage that Senator Fowler introduced into the bill which is \$2.60, from \$2.37 an hour to \$2.60. That's Section 2 of the bill.

Subsection 3 of the bill is the one that says that all other employees will be treated the same way which means that they all get pushed up the same 10 percent. So the Section 3 of the bill is the bill that has the \$13 million fiscal impact. I'm suggesting, frankly, that the better way to handle the salary review for the employees is through the normal budget process which we have taken care of and that we adopt this amendment scratching Subsection 3 of this bill. Then the only thing left for the decision to be made ... in other words the only thing that would be left in the bill would be the new minimum wage of \$2.60 for the employees.

I move the adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I'd like to ask Senator Goodrich a question. Senator Goodrich, did you hear that I had a motion up to bracket this bill for another two weeks?

SENATOR GOODRICH: I did not hear that. I really think myself that we should not do that, we should just decide this issue.

SENATOR FOWLER: I just wanted to know if you heard that. Well the reason I put a motion up to bracket it was to follow at least a suggestion that we hear what the Appropriations Committee has recommended. I know that they have taken action. I know that rather than spend the time now to debate this bill it would make more sense and probably expedite things simply to hold this bill further off and wait and see what the Appropriations Committee, what the final package is. I can't see... Senator Goodrich himself indicated to some members of the Appropriations Committee that he would appreciate that. I guess I see no reason to take action on his amendment. If the body wants to get into debate on the amendment and on the salary question today that's fine. I'd be willing to defer that discussion for the appropriations bill.

I don't know if my ... if I can make my motion with his amendment up or not. Vince? Can mine be acted on before his?

PRESIDENT: Is there an objection to this? Seeing none, it is so ordered. March 18. LB 667, constitutional amendment.