

May 8, 1979

LB 594, 596

CLERK: All right. Senator Landis wants to withdraw his. That is all I have.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The next bill is LB 596.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lewis moves to return LB 596 to adopt the Koch amendment found on page 1885 of the Journal.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: I move the adoption or I ask to return 596 to Select File for the purpose of adding the amendment found on page 1885. The amendment is very simple. It says it is the intent of the Legislature the State Board of Equalization and Assessment shall not, when setting the rate of sales tax and income tax, reduce the sales and income tax because of appropriations made by the Eighty-Sixth Legislature, First Session, 1979 for the period July 1, 1979 to June 30, 1980. This is not without precedent. We have done this before and I do this and Senator Koch does it as a friendly amendment. The concerns here have been expressed. There is a desire on the part of some to keep expenditures down so that we can cut the sales or the income tax back for political purposes. Now I have been absolutely advised by the Governor of the state that is not his intention and I believe him. I have been absolutely advised by the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee that is not his intention and I believe him. So, Mr. President, I think so that we get off on a sound basis with everybody, eliminate the rumors that are prevalent in this issue, I move the bill be returned for the purpose of the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you wish to speak on this amendment? Senator Murphy. Senator Murphy, do you wish to speak on the Lewis amendment to LB 596?

SENATOR MURPHY: A question of Senator Lewis. Senator, does the Constitution not provide the duties that the Board of Equalization shall meet and set this and are we not running our nose into a stone wall by trying to delineate beyond what the Constitution prescribes the duties of this body to be?

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Murphy, I would remind you that on four occasions this Legislature set the rate. This is not a new precedent. This is not new ground. Senator Warner, may I clear that up? I'd like you to ask Senator Warner