

April 14, 1982

LR 244

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 244 offered by Senator Chambers found on page 1050. (Read.)

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, there is a singer called Fats Domino and he had a song and it started "Yes, it is me and I am in love again." Yes, it is me and the Freeway again. Perseverance sometimes accomplishes things, and in line with that, there is a little poem that I will tell you that I learned in school although it contains some inconsistencies if you analyze it. "If a task is once begun, never leave it until it is done. For be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all." Now it is kind of appropriate for me to offer this resolution which is attempting to push the Freeway forward because I started this session with a bill designed to stop the Freeway. So if I started with an attempt to stop, it is appropriate that I stop the session with an attempt to start the Freeway. Now to give you a brief background on the efforts that I put forth, all of which have been rebuffed by the Legislature, I offered a bill to kill the Freeway. That was knocked down. The second attempt was a resolution to say that the state would guarantee funding for this Freeway if the federal government would not provide funding. That was defeated by the Legislature. So then I offered a resolution saying that if the federal government will not guarantee funding and the state is not going to guarantee funding, then no construction should start without a guarantee of federal funds. That was also abolished by the Legislature. I then read to you and gave you copies of a letter from the Federal Highway Administration stating specifically and expressly that they will not guarantee any funds for this or any other projects. That had no impact on you. So the last effort that I could undertake beside this resolution was an attempt to amend the budget bill to have the state appropriate some money for this Freeway. I gave you two alternatives, each of which was soundly and roundly rejected. The first was to earmark some money from the Department of Roads budget for the Freeway. The second alternative was not to earmark the Department's present budget money but to require an increase in the gas tax to provide the money for it. That was defeated. I have no way of knowing what in the world is on the Legislature's mind if anything. So this final resolution is an opportunity to give the Legislature a chance to have said every possible contradictory thing on this Freeway: Start it but don't pay for it. You don't have the money but don't say you won't start it. So what I am saying now is this, that the construction of the Freeway will be commenced despite the fact that there is no guarantee

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