

SPEAKER NICHOL: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Beutler, you may close, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, you know we wonder from time to time why the people of the state lose confidence in the Legislature, why they are always saying that we never get anything done and we always make a mess of things, and we are always fumbling around, and why they only pay us \$4,800 a year, and why they haven't changed that for the last 16 years, and I tell you why. It is because of the loss of will and the loss of resolution that you are witnessing today, it really is. It happens every day, year after year. All of the important issues we fall on our faces when it comes to the final vote. You freshmen, you just came from the people and what did you hear? What a terrible Legislature it is, how we never address the property tax problem, we never get anything important done, always dribbling around with the little bills. We've worked hard on this issue. Senator Lamb got his amendment which has watered the bill down badly. Senator Schmit has put on an amendment, I'm not sure what its effect is, but I think we can live with it. It may be very positive in the end. But if you are going to buy a study resolution that strikes all the sections of the bill, in other words you're going to buy killing the bill, in other words all of this for nothing, we wasted it all. Let's salvage what we have and move ahead in a logical, rational way. I don't like the compromise that has been stricken, but that is what we have right now. Let's grab hold of ourselves and not allow the bill now to be "Christmas-treed" by those who oppose it by adding on amendments that are silly or irrelevant. Let's study it. Which ever way you study it someone is going to accuse the other side of bad faith. But if you are going to get something done, if you really want action, if you really want change, if you really want progress leave the bill in place and let's study it with it in place. Put the shoe on the other foot. Put the burden on those who want to leave things as they are, put the burden on them to make positive,