

May 17, 1993

LB 697

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...would you like...

SENATOR HABERMAN: No, I...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...any further comment on that?

SENATOR HABERMAN: I'll ask you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Members of the body, I object to this amendment. I objected to it in the committee. It's saying, in essence, if you are a particular state employee and you are certified and blessed by the Red Cross, you can have 15 days each year without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave or earned overtime accumulations, if you belong to a certain particular part of the Red Cross. Now if you belong to the Salvation Army and a state employee, you can't do this. If you believe in the Goodwill and work for them, you can't do this. If you are a volunteer in your church group and want to help with relief and disaster, you do not get the time off, you don't get the pay, you don't get anything. You have to be a particular employee. The Red Cross specializes in disasters. I don't think this is fair or correct. It should include all organizations, religious and nonreligious, and all state employees, in my opinion, therefore I ask you not to support this amendment that it picks out just the Red Cross employees who are specialized in disaster relief, because maybe some people who believe in the Salvation Army are specialized in disaster relief. They're always first on the scene, Salvation Army is. Some people believe in the Goodwill, they're on the scene, some people, and church groups they're on the scene. So I don't think this is right or fair, and I ask you not to vote in favor of this amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Robak had an amendment printed. I have a note, Senator, you want to withdraw.

SENATOR ROBAK: Withdraw that.

SPEAKER BAACK: It is withdrawn. We are still on the Schimek amendment. Senator Pirsch on the Schimek amendment.