

April 12, 1994 LB 961

our accomplishments this session. We didn't pass the omnibus crime bill but we did make a number of significant judgments in crime.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Mr. Clerk, we have a priority motion.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Hall would move to bracket the bill until April 16th.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I was going to try to give this talk a couple minutes ago but I couldn't hear for all the rumbling behind me and I apologize. What I was going to say is much what Senator Withem said, but not all of it. I was going to say that, look, I strongly believe in the health care issue, I think it's a priority issue. I think any time the state says we're going to put in place a program where we will give away benefits, we will excuse payment of taxes, where we will basically have tax expenditures and in this case where we will write the checks for production, that the state has a duty, a responsibility and clearly every opportunity to set the criteria for that. Health care for construction workers is not too much to ask. It is, at this point though, not enough to bring down this proposal. I want to see something done. I don't want to walk away from here and I don't like virtually anything in the package. This was the one...I think somebody called it bait, this is the one piece of bait that got this catfish up off the bottom of the river and, I mean, I felt that it was that important an issue to deal with. At this point in time, it was a fair vote up or down even though I don't like the way it turned out. At this point, as long as it's before us, let's move on and talk about the other aspects of the bill. Hopefully, there's enough people here who support what's left in the proposal so we can move it along. I...I applaud those folks who have worked real hard on it. I think there are some components in all aspects of the bill that will prove to be beneficial to the state as a whole. I would like to have seen the health care workers left in there. I think that's clearly a bellwether provision for me anyway and I think it's

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