

April 4, 1979

LB 285

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in support of the committee amendments as amended. The Revenue Committee has worked long and hard on this bill. I think we have spent more time on this bill than we did on a lot of the others in the committee. I think this is the tenth or twelfth set of committee amendments and I am real happy to see now that we are going to be able to move them across the board. I think one of the reasons that we put so much time on this bill is that some of the local governments could only raise their budgets by a 3 or 4%. I think that in this day of inflation that this is unrealistic and I don't think that the introducers intended it to be that way and I would like to ask Senator Keyes or Senator Dworak if they did? Senator Keyes, would you care to answer that?

PRESIDENT: Who would you want to answer, Senator Keyes? Senator Keyes, do you want to respond to that?

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, Senator Hefner, what was it you had in mind? I didn't hear.

SENATOR HEFNER: The question was, did you only intend local governments to increase their budget by 3 or 4%?

SENATOR KEYES: Local governments to increase their...?

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes, under LB 1.

SENATOR KEYES: No, it was the total budget. It was the total budget of the state. We didn't include the federal funds but the federal funds should be included in it. LB 1 included the state funds.

SENATOR HEFNER: I thought it just... just the portion of that budget that was raised by ad valorem taxes could not be increased by over 7%.

SENATOR KEYES: That couldn't be increased by over 7%. If your budget caused that to be increased by over 7% you had to go to a vote of the people or you could decrease the property tax.

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes, so I think that the body can see that there was a lot of problems with it and of course, if the budget could not go up over 7%, well then the property tax would drop. Let me say that I think that this amendment is fair and reasonable. It is true that