

One of the important reasons that I do oppose the amendment is because in concept the amendment is designed to deal with those budgetary items over which a local political subdivision has no influence, and they're pretty much married to whatever costs are incurred for those budgetary items. That's the thesis behind the amendment.

- However, for example, I note that in the amendment it would exempt out from the lid payment to retirement system. Now you and I know that one of the principle causes of the bankruptcy of New York City was its public pension system. New York politicians had found it very politic to support high cost of public retirement systems. In the end they could defer paying wages now for high cost public retirement systems later on, and finally that cost caught up with New York City, and the big apple was found wanting. Now it seems to me that retirement systems are uniquely local, that in fact the kinds of retirement policies that local subdivisions work out with local employees are a negotiated program and local subdivisions do have considerable control over those retirement policies, and if we exempt out from the lid retirement systems, what we're really saying is that a local subdivision can keep present wages relatively low and live within the lid but load up the retirement system so that ten years from now, twenty years from now, or thirty years from now, our children and our childrens' children pay the price, and if we can't pay the price we see the collapse of local government just as we saw happen in New York City. I agree with Senator Lewis, if this body wants a lid then it's to have a meaningful lid, not a lid so riddled with holes that it's a piece of Swiss cheese. For that reason I think this body should reject the Koch amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you wish to speak to the....the question's been called for. The question before the House is, shall debate cease? All those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed no. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate ceases. Senator Koch, do you want to close on your amendment?

- SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I know the feelings of Senator Lewis and the feelings of several of us in this body. We did not support limitations last session. It took us thirty minutes to kill that bill, but then in a special session some of those same people thought that we should try to put together some kind of legislation that