

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have to rise and oppose the amendment. I think that we have provided within the structure of LB 285 those problems that arise from increased population and growth. We did not include in that, after much consideration and discussion, the three year factor. We used the ratchet clause, and I believe that we have taken care of the problem to the satisfaction of most of the people. And as I said earlier, LB 285 is not a complete package to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. We have tried to bend some places, but we still have to keep in mind those...those intents that we had and that the people have of a lid, and I know that's open for argument in some of the things that we have done, but I think that in light of the fact that we have tried very hard to provide for that increase in the bill itself, these amendments are unnecessary. I would hope that you would not see favorable to adopt them. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy and then Senator Kremer. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I would have to concur with Senator Carsten. All in the world we're doing is making an exception for those districts that have been increasing their budget by a large amount, my county being one of them with an average 19 to 20 percent increase for the last three years. Put your pencil to that one. We're going to impose a seven percent lid on the rest of the counties, but my county can take it's three year period...that's 60 divided by 3, that's 20, so their budget limitation is not 7 percent but 20 percent. Next year we add the 7 to the two 20s, the total is 47...we divide it by 3, their average increase is 15 to 16 percent. All in the world this is is a gimmick to circumvent the lid once again for certain areas who quite frankly are probably the areas that have created the need for this bill, those who are raising their expenditures by excessive amounts. I would oppose this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: What's your point?

SENATOR SIMON: It was my understanding that the Koch amendment deals with the growth factor, not with percentage of increase in budget. I believe Senator Murphy was mistaken when he made that comment. He was talking on the wrong amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature,