

SPEAKER MARVEL: All those in favor of that...Senator Murphy, your light's on. Do you have a motion on the... okay, the Chair recognizes Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I'm getting that old feeling of futility again, but I admire all those educators who all through the petition promised faithfully that this Legislature would responsibly impose a statutory lid, and we just blew a hole in it big enough to drive a tank through. Now I would like to, if possible, remove the provision in this reconsidering of the Koch amendment that exempts all pension payments from the lid. I guess by the time we're through we will have exempted everything of any consequence anyhow, but just one time I would like to say this is a current expense and the lid should apply to subsequent actions on this current expense just as surely as it should have applied before the last amendment to all other expenditures. I would move the adoption of the amendment which simply removes the provision of pension, not Social Security, just pension.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle, do you wish to speak to the Murphy amendment? Senator Reutzel, do you wish to speak to the Murphy amendment?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker. If there's anything in that Koch amendment that we need it's that provision for the police and firemen's benefits. Fremont, for example is at the top of their mill levy. They can't go any higher, yet we've got bills in here to increase retirement benefits. We've got other strains on that budget. They cannot increase their retirement benefits under this lid because they're at the top of their mill levy and I know there are other cities in this state in the same situation. If there's anything in that Koch amendment we need, its the protection for the policemen and firemen benefits, and I would urge this body to reject the Murphy amendment and adopt the Koch amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I'd like to explain a couple of things on this particular amendment. I was going to play a game with Senator Murphy and ask him what percentage it was they are paying now and how is that increased, but that's... I already know that, and that would be a rhetorical question. There has been an increase the last two years in the school districts' contribution to retirement funds. We passed the bill that made the school districts provide the actuarial soundness of the system. It went from...and I'm trying to get