

April 8, 1980

LB 820

less vocal voices out in the lobby than today are we willing to examine those policy questions and I am disappointed in the way that we are addressing this question today but I would suggest that you vote for this amendment to LB 820.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon, do you wish to speak and then I will recognize Senator Cullan?

SENATOR SIMON: Thank you, Mr. President. I will make my comments very brief but I was listening to Senator Landis and I really don't have much more to add but I was kind of struck by an interesting analogy. It seems if you have an individual go before a board made up of nine individuals namely from the industry it is like the chicken going before eight foxes and asking that he be heard. I think you all know what the verdict is going to be on that. As a matter of fact, I've got an amendment up there that would strike the one consumer and remove that because to me it is a farce. If you are going to have representatives then you should have at least a reasonable number but you don't even have to have the hearings. You know what the vote is going to be on each and every issue. It is going to be eight - one at the most, eight-one, eight-one and I can't see any point in having a board like that. The only other comment I would make is that this Legislature has in recent years gone on record, at least in the past. Obviously our actions today are somewhat different but in the past we have gone on record as being in favor of putting consumers on boards and by good percentages, good healthy percentages and I would suggest to members of the body, not that consistency is something that has to be vital around here because certainly the case can be shown that it is not but we have I think, consistently shown in the last couple of years, and certainly in the Public Health and Welfare Committee that I serve on, I recall just about every board now we have been putting more and more consumers on those boards and this is not a technical area. It is not one that has an extreme degree of expertise. It is one that handles consumer complaints among other things. It seems to me that this amendment is one that is reasonable. That may not make any difference based on the vote here today but it is one that certainly should be enacted upon.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I call the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see