

April 18, 1980

LB 998

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, just a couple of comments, fellow Senators and Mr. Speaker, and that is this. These veto overrides have been dealing with...have dealt simply with the salary question, but this one issue...this one issue goes beyond salary and it deals, as I understand it in listening to Senator Warner, with equipment, modernization and replacement at our Educational Television stations. Now, for my money we need to make certain in these inflationary times particularly as costs are rising daily that we have good equipment, that we are able to provide to our citizens the best of public programs, and it seems to me that we might be penny-wise but pound-foolish in the end in not permitting our Educational Television station to upgrade its facilities. You know, the thing that really makes life in our society worth living, the thing that really holds us together is basic civilization and that means culture, that means a sense of history, a sense of place. It means the arts. It means entertainment. It means the truly great human values that keep us as one. Now I submit that one of the major functions of public television is to bring to us the better parts of western civilization, and I think that we make a mistake if we shortchange our public educational television, and this is the one place where we truly ought to thoughtfully override the Governor's veto, and I would therefore ask that we do have 30 votes to override the Governor's veto.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, we are speaking to the Johnson motion. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is the first time in my almost twelve years on this floor that I heard that entertainment was more important than a job. I think that I would have a hard time explaining to the people whose salary increases I've voted to sustain, or rather to sustain the Governor's veto of, that I felt that they, while they were maybe out of a job or working at a reduced salary, were going to be entertained by the most modern television equipment. We talked about inflation and the continuing inflation we have, some of it there is such a thing as deflation also, and it may well be...I spoke to a gentleman this morning who handles some of this equipment, his business is off more than fifty percent this year. It may well be that there will be some bargains available in some of this equipment at some time in the future. I really believe that if we are going to take a hard line on expenditures that the very first thing we can do away with is a capital expenditure. I can tell you very frankly that business and