

pages right before your bill. The second part of this provides that the uniform rate for all delinquent taxes be 15 percent instead of the 12 percent that is in the bill, and the third part of it clarifies the technical language in section 1. I suppose I should explain the bill just a little bit so you will understand the amendments, but LB 167 provides for a uniform rate of interest on all delinquent taxes. The rate would be set by the Legislature in one single section, and, of course, this bill changes various sections of the statute. Right now we have a 16 percent rate on property tax, on delinquent property tax, and, of course, this also changes the rate on delinquent taxes on the sales and use tax. I think at the present time that is 6 percent. And so I move the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows, do you have an amendment to the committee amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Burrows moves to amend the standing committee amendments. His amendment is found on page 479 of the Journal. (Read the Burrows amendment.) That amendment again, Mr. President, is on page 479 of the Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I move the amendment, the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments. What this does is it removes the 16 and reverts back to 12 as the original bill was drafted, as a compromised interest rate. Currently, property taxes for one year only carried a 16 percent interest rate against them, and the bill consolidates interest on delinquent taxes and assessments which have ranged from 6 to 16 percent. I feel that the 12 percent figure is a much more reasonable figure, that originally drafted in the bill, than 16 and I feel certainly the 6 that was the interest charge on some areas of taxation was entirely too low with current interest rates. Now, one of the questions that was really not brought out, some people were accused of not paying their taxes because the lower interest rates were cheaper than what they could borrow the money for. Now this is true. But at 12 percent any subdivision can get the money for 12 percent or less to replace it if there is a period of time that they don't have that taxes. In fact, they may have a half to 2 percent profit even at the 12 percent level, and we have a lot of people that are in a position where they can't get the money to pay their taxes and we are hitting them with the same high interest rates if