

March 18, 1981

LB 446

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers, do you want to explain what you want to do on the first part of the division? We will vote on that one first.

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay. On the portion that we are dividing out or that I asked to be divided out of the committee amendments is in Section 23 of the bill, the committee amendments would reinstate the stricken language. I think the stricken language should stay stricken. The reason being that we are talking here about constitutional amendments and if I understand it correctly, as it is advertised by the Secretary of State that with the language in Section 23, if any group of individuals or an individual asked the Secretary of State to print along with the constitutional amendment an editorial comment, either pro or con, then as you remember when you read it in the paper you will see the constitutional amendment and a little bit of an editorial one way or the other about it. The committee amendments would say that that is fine. You can do that but at the end of that you have to have a disclaimer indicating that is not an argument made or an opinion held by the state and that it is only published by the Secretary of State because it is being paid for by another committee or a group or an individual. My contention is that we should strike that language so that the Secretary of State simply prints the constitutional amendment. If this committee or group of individuals wants to have an editorial comment, a paid political advertisement if you will, they should contact the newspapers and have a paid political advertisement as any other paid political advertisement so that it would not be tied to the advertisement by the Secretary of State on a constitutional amendment at all. My concern is that as people read the constitutional amendment and then read this editorial comment, they might miss the disclaimer that indicates that it is not an argument or a position put forth by the state. So it would seem to me it would be much better to have it a separate advertisement altogether with the normal political disclaimer on the end of it naming the committee or the group that was promoting a point of view. I would ask the body to not vote for the committee amendments on that page 667 of the Journal, lines...numbers 12 and 13 of the committee amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Johnson, did you want to talk on the division of the question?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I assume, Mr. Speaker, that you have divided the question.

SENATOR CLARK: We have divided a question. He is asking to reinstate the stricken language.