

April 7, 1981

LB 284

SPEAKER MARVEL: Time is up.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So I am saying we should go ahead and do that.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, it was I who rose and objected to having this bill laid over and I would just like to give the body the benefits of my thoughts on the subject. The Revenue Committee, of which I am a member, has really worked for quite a long time now to bring some resolution to the LB 882 problem and we thought we did that through LB 390 which was a compromise measure that would have distributed the \$70 million back to local subdivisions based to some extent on population and to some extent on valuation. However, the Legislature and the committee, in the end, in a sort of what I call a force majeure saw fit to advance LB 284. Now LB 284 needs to have, if it is to be passed right now, it needs to have the approval of 33 members of this body so it has the emergency clause, and, frankly, a lot of legislators have really tried very earnestly to work out some kind of a compromise so that no member, no member in this body, can feel as though he or she has been taken advantage of, so that each member can at least go back to his or her home area and to say, "I worked hard and I struggled with the \$70 million problem and I don't feel ashamed of what I have done. I don't feel embarrassed about what I have done. I think that what we have worked out has been an appropriate resolution of the competing forces that exist in this state, and there are competing forces that exist in this state. Now I have been part of some negotiations, so to speak, and I have been part of understanding, so to speak, and I have really worked hard and the reason why I have done it is because I am a member of the Revenue Committee, and being a member of that Committee, I have had some ability to gather the facts fairly quickly and understand exactly what is going on. And the reason I have tried to do that is because it seemed to me that maybe the better part of discretion on a measure of this magnitude is to see if accommodations can be reached off of the floor, so that when the measure does come to the floor, when it comes to the floor, it can move because we do need to do something with the \$70 million. Well, for reasons that are unknown to me, and it may be as simple as personalities or it may be as complicated as philosophical concerns, we cannot seem to arrive at a full, thorough and complete understanding on LB 284. So I have finally concluded that this probably is one of those times when we best just argue it out on the floor of the Legislature and let the legislative business