

SENATOR WAGNER: I guess this is part of my concern is that I think when we get to Select File and when we come through with a bill that is...an amendment that is about thirteen pages long, twelve, thirteen, something like that, it is late. It is kind of like hassling your bill. Your bill is one thing. This amendment is something else. I opposed it on that ground simply because I think it ought to have had a public hearing. If we refer it back to the committee your bill probably won't make it. I think it would be best just to strike the Landis amendment and let your bill go and for that reason I would like to see us strike the Landis amendment.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I appreciate that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I support the motion to remove the amendment. I think it was an ill-advised mistake to add that issue on Select File. To bring this in as a separate bill might have been acceptable but I think it broadened the concept far beyond what the introducer's intent was and I think caught many people by surprise. It seems kind of surprising to me but among the trends in budget cutting these days is to attack the veteran. It is being done in Washington and maybe that mood filtered back here to try and undo things that we established a long time ago, to take away grants and privileges that this Legislature and the national Congress and previous governors and presidents had all felt were essential. Last week I had the experience of walking through the halls of the capitol and noticing a small press conference that a couple gentlemen were holding. They were relating to the question of the Vietnam veteran and they were calling themselves the "forgotten veteran" and they were talking about how they were a veteran, a generation of veterans that in many ways they felt that this country wanted to forget because they served as a reminder of a war that was very divisive and very unpopular. And they talked about many of the services and programs that other veterans had been allowed that now they were not going to get, that were being taken away from them, that were being implemented by national policy and it struck me that this Legislature was committing and adding to the same crime and that is, trying to ignore and forget that which had been done. I think it was ill-advised to take Senator Pirsch's bill and turn it into something that denies benefits and privileges. If we want to address this question I think a bill can be introduced. The Revenue Committee can have a hearing. If income standards need to be established that could be addressed in a full public discussion but to try through the back door to take away these