

May 8, 1981

LR 79

budget which nobody here has even seen and you are going to carte blanche put the Legislature on record behind a program that you have not seen, that you do not understand, that could result in cuts against agriculture which you will be on record as favoring. If the cuts occur, you know what will happen just like with the grain embargo? Whereas everybody on this floor with the exception of myself and maybe some others, but I will speak only for me, are scared to death of the communist and are always willing to pass resolutions fighting the communist here, fighting the communist there, but when time comes to cut into the agricultural producers pocketbook, you say, "The communist are not so bad. They have got to eat, too. So knock out the grain embargo." When your principles have blind spots that occur where your money is involved, that tends to make all of the motives suspect and tainted. So before giving this kind of blanket endorsement to a program which you don't even understand, we ought to put it before the public and see if the people, even those who say they voted for Reagan, are in favor of this type of action by the Legislature. I was one of the three or four who voted against all of the lid bills in the first place. I spoke against them and it did no good. The Legislature ran headlong and did it and has been backing up ever since, and puts the picture in my mind of the obsequious individual bowing and scraping backward out a door in a shuffling manner. The Legislature should not always put itself in this position. We know that sometimes during the height of emotion we may say things and do things that are regrettable. It has been suggested that at those times you write a letter but don't mail it. The act of writing the letter gives you the opportunity to drain off the frustration, hostility or whatever it is. Then that having been done, your good judgment can reassert itself and you more calmly and objectively review the entire situation and formulate a better course of conduct that you can live with in the future. It won't be like Ernest Hemingway and some of these other people who put things in writing which their families now regret because those things have been publicized years after the people have died who wrote them. Why can't the Legislature not run headlong in this fashion just this once. Let the public have the opportunity to present its views on concrete proposals that are going to affect them rather than the Legislature pretending, and we are all politicians and understand things, rather than pretending that when Reagan was put into office that was an endorsement before the fact of anything he would say or do. We now have something more concrete, and before the Legislature of this state which purports to represent the people, which purports to put into operation policies that are designed for the betterment of the majority of the people, this...

4768