

May 14, 1981

LB 3

PRESIDENT: Well we will just have to wait and see how they vote to see if they want to vote. We have heard one, two, three, four, five, this is the sixth speaker already on this motion and we have a long agenda ahead of us.

SENATOR HIGGINS: How many for and against?

PRESIDENT: I am going to call the question. I saw five hands. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed nay. If you don't want to cease debate why you can vote against it. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? The motion is to cease debate. Record the vote.

CLERK: 23 ayes, 12 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment. As a member of the Revenue Committee we have heard approximately the same bill many times and it is true. Maybe we should consider it a little bit more but I think as we come here today with only nine more days left, I think this is a poor place to put this amendment. Where are we going to pick up all this money that we are going to lose? I think that maybe if these senators are interested in this maybe they should introduce a study resolution on it so that we can go in depth, take a little more time and see if there is a need for a change. I haven't heard during the floor debate this morning where we are going to get all this money from and I realize that we do have problems, especially in the city areas and, therefore, at this late moment, I would urge you to defeat this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins. Here you go.

SENATOR HIGGINS: At last. Thank you, Mr. President, Senators, I introduced LB 256 as you know that would have taken away the 3% that the taxpayers pay to utilities to collect the sales tax. So that was the second public hearing this amendment had this year and at that time the fiscal analyst told us that the taxpayers are paying the utilities \$800,000 a year just to collect the tax. Senators, in your four year term that amounts to \$3,200,000 that you could be saving the state. Estimated the amount of sales tax collected and held by the utilities more than thirty days is \$2,222,216 and taxes are paid to the state after the last day of the month. So some of the funds are held and deposited by utilities for longer than thirty days. But for simplification let me say this.