

May 18, 1981

LB 352

of government if you have irresponsible decision makers, then you use the petition method and bring them back to responsible positions. So I am asking you at this time to vote your judgment. I think many of you committed yourself because when I submitted a letter to the Speaker for this priority hearing on this bill on the floor twenty-seven of you signed that. Some of you possibly with some reservations but many of you just as strong a feeling as I have about this issue. So, therefore, I would hope that we would turn down any amendments and those who have them would defer them until such time when we can look at them on Select File and make a determination of whether or not they might be reasonable. In my final closing point I want to say to you, I see where the Governor now has thrown out the hue and cry along with certain members of this body that we ought to have a committee to monitor the decisions that are being made at the federal level and their effect upon local governments. I predicted this a couple of months ago. I even predicted we might be back for a special session. There are some now who say there is a good likelihood we could be. I submit to you if you take off the lid there is no reason to come back because then the local governments can say, "Sure, we have suffered the decisions but we have a chance to make them up locally based upon what we think are reasonable programs, programs that should not be dismantled but programs that should be continued". So this is the way you solve that problem. You take away inequitable treatment. You let local subdivisions act on their own initiatives. Let them make their budgets based upon what the good news is and the bad news. There are subdivisions of government today who because when brought under a seven percent lid are suffering almost irreparable damages. Other subdivisions of governments who had the fat who were irresponsible are not suffering very much. There are subdivisions today who have over-ridden the seven percent lid but let me remind you they are not very large. They are primarily Class I schools who over-rode their lids. The auditors report gave us that figure and you check it out, that is what they were and so there are certain people in small communities when they realize something is terribly important to them and close to their heart, they will go the risk. They will go way above. But when you get into some of the intangible items that they can't directly see and don't want to directly protect, they aren't going to take that risk. So I would submit to you that LB 352, the time is appropriate and we should act and I think that we should demonstrate the courage to say with these times, and we don't know them very well, it is time to turn government back to local subdivisions, let them make the decisions. We will live with seven percent at state level. Then we will see the differences where some