

It takes the same formula of number of votes to have an initiative as a referendum. So I don't know why Senator Koch wants a referendum. I am for an initiative. If the people want to lift the seven percent lid, then let them get enough votes to have an initiative. Forget the referendum. Then you are going to find out what the people really want and I know you have been lobbied to death by the city and the county organizations but you wait until you get home and the people tell you, "We didn't ask you to lift the lid". And, furthermore, what did your lone leader do today? He cut the mental retarded budget. I don't think he would want to lift the lid. I mean "old tightfisted Charlie" isn't going to go along with this. You might pass this bill and he will have to veto that. Then he is going to have to come back into the rotunda and twist a few arms, again say, "Now don't override my veto". And here he just vetoed LB 317. I guess he figures today is his lucky day and maybe he could get that up to a vote. But I think it is redundant, asinine and ridiculous to offer amendments to this bill and, really, if you are going to vote on it, wait until the leader gets here to tell you how. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, obviously, Senator Higgins only heard what she wanted to hear. I am not in favor of...I am not in favor of adding any new dimensions to the lid. I am trying to repeal the seven percent lid, period, and I would hope that Senator Burrows and Senator Newell withdraw this amendment and advance 352, and if there are those on Select File who feel as though they have reached a consensus of the membership of this body and the Chief Executive, then that is the place to do it but we are standing here and we are engaging in a great deal of rhetoric, and I don't think we are prepared to do that much today except to move it and yield to time, and then on Select File accept the amendments and make a determination who has twenty-five votes and who doesn't. So I will not accept Senator Newell's amendment nor Senator Burrows. I know they offer it in good faith, and all I will say to this is that when you try to put the local subdivisions of government in there, you say two-thirds, I don't know that you are really going to help things very much. If you are going to do that, then you might as well leave it at seven percent and say if you want to exceed seven by two-thirds of your membership then you go ahead and get the vote and then exceed but we always talk about political reality on this floor. Political reality, this is now not the time. I submit to you that had the politicians in previous years faced reality,