

File and not put this lid on or not put any sort of change in the lid or whatever. So I feel that this amendment is not going to pass but I felt that I, for one, had to offer it on General File and the reason I did is because if it was adopted I could vote for the advancement of the bill. If it is not adopted, I cannot vote for the advancement of the bill and I can't for very simple reasons. Four years ago, three years ago, there was a proposal to put a five percent constitutional lid on all local subdivisions of government and I, like many other legislators in this body, went out and said it is irresponsible, it is wrong, give the Legislature a chance. We will do something. We will put a lid on that is strict and yet rational, a lid that allows for some exceptions, a lid that recognizes the inflation rate and what has happened to it, and this Legislature came back and in a special session did such a thing. It was a terrible bill which we later had to modify and we did and we made a workable lid, a seven percent lid, which we live under today. That lid is pinching very, very, very tightly and I recognize that. It is not the most responsible lid that we could impose upon local government and I recognize that, but at the same time that we changed it and made it workable, there was another proposal that went before the voters. It was called the "Jaksha flimflam, a little bit of everything, something for everybody" amendment and it didn't get on the ballot because it was so poorly drafted, so poorly thought out. It had a little bit of something for everybody and really nothing for anybody and that proposal was not on the ballot but, you know, I fear and I want to say this publicly to my colleagues who are probably going to vote this down and advance 352 the way it is written to repeal the lid, this is the wrong signal to send to those people who sincerely want to hold down government spending. It is the wrong signal to send when we send this bill from General File to Select File even with the promise of someday straightening it up and keeping a lid on. It is not only the wrong signal to send but it is in fact the kind of thing that will get the juices of those people who have led petition drives before going.

SENATOR NICHOL: A minute.

SENATOR NEWELL: And those juices will produce probably a very simple limitation, a seven percent limitation with no loopholes, with no recognition of certain other factors, one more strict and less thought out than even our own proposal, but that will be offered as a constitutional amendment and these people will be gearing up the minute this moves from General File to Select File. It is the wrong signal to send. I urge the members of this Legislature to adopt this