

May 21, 1981

LB 561

respectfully request you to support the \$20 million override.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to make one short point in support of Senator Koch's motion. Please keep in mind that now is the time when we should be shifting this taxes and the reason that now is the time is because we have a lid in place, and despite the fact that the current bill is past the first stage of debate, we will have the lid in place next year also, and because the lid is in place, we can be sure that it will be a tax shift and a property tax relief measure and not a tax increase. Once the lid goes, should it ever go, it is going to be much more difficult politically to ever get the job done of reducing property taxes. So I think we should be making hay while the sun shines, in a sense, and doing this now, doing the job now when we can go back to our constituents with confidence and say we are not giving them more state aid so they spend more, we are giving them more state aid so it reduces your property taxes. Let's do it now and not lose the fine opportunity that we have had last year, this year and hopefully for a couple more years into the future to get this job done. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I, too, rise to support Senator Koch and this motion and it is much for the same reasons pointed out by Senator Beutler. I would point out, however, that if we do not do this, if we do not increase the amount of the funds to the public education from the state, then the property taxes are inevitably going to go up. They are going to go up regardless of how fiscally conservative those local elected officials on the school boards might happen to be because they won't have any choice. As we all know under the inflationary times that we are in, they are by essence going to have...it is going to be essential that they increase their budgets probably to the full amount of the lid, the seven percent. Now when they increase it by seven percent and all of that increase has to come from the property taxes, obviously the property taxes are going to have to go up much more than the seven percent. I still contend, as I've contended many times before, that my constituents, at least, and I think it is true across the state as the information pointed out handed out by Senator Koch, that people view the property taxes as the most hated form of tax, and if it does trigger an increase in the sales-income tax, my constituents are ready for that, if it will