

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is offered by Senators Beutler and DeCamp, Request #2454.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler, are you going to handle this?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, I will start out. I'm sure Senator DeCamp would like to speak too. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I have passed around to you, and I hope you will follow along with me, a packet of information dealing with Request #2454 which are the amendments that Senator DeCamp and myself are proposing. On the front of that package you will see a summary of the amendment and some materials behind the summary, the amendment itself and behind that some additional materials which I will bring to your attention as we go along. This amendment is going to have a difficult time because those that do not like lids at all will be reluctant to vote for it on the theory that if we stick to the 7% lid, it will get so bad eventually that we will get rid of lids altogether. And those who like the 7% lid won't like this because it is a compromise. It loosens the lid up. On the other hand, in my opinion, this is the only kind of lid that makes sense if you are going to have a lid. A 7% lid has no relationship to economic realities because of the fluctuation in inflation rates. Secondly, the second problem with our present lid is that you really don't have any idea what the lid is. With all the existing exemptions I doubt if there are very few of you that can tell me what your local school district or your local city's real lid is. What was their real increase last year? It was certainly higher than 7%. 9, 10, 11? Our lid is no good because it doesn't give us any information for one thing. On the other hand I personally am not ready to do away with lids because I think that the history of this country in the last forty years has been a history of failure to control government spending and the biggest failure has been at the federal level but the failures have also been at the state and local levels and altogether it has been a dismal failure. And it is going to continue to be a failure unless we think of how to control spending because of the very nature of the legislative process, the democratic process. In this Legislature, in a school board meeting, in a city or county council meeting the process is always a trading up process. I will help you with this if you will help me with that. Like it or not, that is the way it is and to the extent that those bills are traded, have appropriations or cost money, the effect in a democratic process is always to pass more bills and spend more money than probably any one member of that legislative body would approve of but it is part of the process. This lid that we are proposing to you now relates to personal