

February 5, 1982

LB 454

those cards. They will continue to furnish them and so from the standpoint of the small merchant there is certainly no problem in terms of getting the new sales tax figures.

PRESIDENT: We are ready, Senator Fowler, for your closing on your amendment on LB 454.

SENATOR FOWLER: The retail merchants have indicated to me that, in fact, with the new technology it is not easier in terms of cost, in terms of burden to change the tax rate, that it is not something that simply someone at the cash register can program in. Rather it means bringing in someone technically trained who obviously would charge to re-program those cash registers. That is often the case, that new technology may seem simpler but, in fact, often is more complex. If we are moving to the concept of having such a narrow range for adjustment of the sales and income tax rate, we are going to find that simply again, because of the margin of error that exists in the revenue projections, that the sales tax and income tax may have to be adjusted every time just to maintain this nearly as equal test. It is just a factor that if we are going to cut down the margins of the sales and income tax adjustments, that we are going to find the sales tax going up one time and then we find that the projections happened to be in error and we will have to drop it back down and then we will have to raise it back up and drop it back down. I think that is kind of harassment of business to require them to keep changing it every time the Board of Equalization meets. I think the retail merchants have indicated to me that they think that this bill will create a burden on them. They were given assurances at one time that the sales tax wouldn't change every Board of Equalization meeting but now they find that people are not willing to put that in writing and I think that we ought to establish a policy that as far as the sales tax is concerned we change it only once a year and that is November. I think that this amendment is one that is reasonable to business and I would move for its adoption.

PRESIDENT: The question before the House is the adoption of the Fowler amendment to LB 454. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Senator Fowler, there are two excused.

SENATOR FOWLER: Which two? Which two are excused? Is that an appropriate question?

PRESIDENT: Well I guess we can tell you. Cullan and Wiitala. Well Wiitala is here. Cullan and who else? Is that it then? That is it then. Senator Wiitala is here so just Senator Cullan. What do you want to do?

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