

March 15, 1982

LB 766

SENATOR LABEDZ: I think everything that I spoke on the amendments applies to the bill now so I move for the advancement of LB 766.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers, speaking to the bill, Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I'm a member of the Constitutional Revision Committee that heard this bill and as a matter of fact, my name is on the front of it but I suggest to this body that we should once again be aware of what we are doing. What we are doing is saying that if you can't pay your property taxes for a period of six months on a piece of property, it happens, and we're trying to define it to a certain area that the possibility of your losing that property is going to be very much greater than it is right now. And I just simply suggest that with property taxes becoming more and more of a burden on the citizens of this state that we might be making some very drastic moves on some people that happen to own property. What we are saying is that if you own a house in town and nobody is living in it and you don't pay your property taxes in a period exceeding six months, that you are liable to lose that house. Now I'm not sure that that's a good policy that we should take although I understand the reason for it. But one other thing I would like to caution this body, I don't know how many of you feel on many of the constitutional amendments that we're dealing with in this body this year, but if you have strong feelings about some of them, then I suggest to you that you start considering how many constitutional amendments you want on the ballot this fall. It seems to me that what this body is doing this year is going to provide a ballot this fall that is going to be fifteen feet long with all the constitutional amendments by the time we get them listed on it. Now to me the Constitution is a pretty serious document and we should mess with it as little as possible and I suggest that we've got a number of constitutional amendments in here we're dealing with this year and I think we should deal with them with some care and concern and caution and to deal with constitutional amendments on consent calendar seems to me to be a little bit of a travesty as to the Constitution of this state. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit. Five minutes left on the bill, just so you'll all know.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well again, I don't want to...I hope I'm not misinformed on this but I just think it is a little bit dangerous if I don't have the money to pay the taxes on the property now, I think that in six months from now I'm probably not going to be in much better shape than I am right now.