

March 30, 1982

LB 408

But I guess it is a good way to get around the rules and I guess you learn something here everyday about how to use the rules. Nonetheless, I still think that we should reject these amendments to LB 408. I think we should consider LB 408 on its merit and we should not place an entirely separate piece of legislation into LB 408 at this point in time. I still think it is not germane. I still think it is a mistake. I respect very much the parliamentary maneuver which has been used here but I think it is a mistake and I urge you to reject these amendments.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would also encourage you to reject the amendment. In the first place whether or not it is germane, we have gone into the process now of circumventing everybody who has a priority bill on the list, because as Senator Kremer forthrightly admitted to you yesterday, these amendments represent LB 874 which is a very small bill which is back on General File and which probably will never see the light of day. So we are using the amendment process to circumvent the priority bill process and get something heard that shouldn't be heard. Now what has happened in addition to that is that we have gone to rewriting amendments on the floor so that it fits the germaneness rule. This particular amendment did not have a special permit process in its original form. So now it has been rewritten to establish a whole special permit process, and if this amendment is attached, I am going to suggest that it be sent back to the Public Works Committee for another hearing. In addition to that, the committee amendments came out with a certain fee structure and now that fee structure is not the same thing that appears in this amendment. So I would like to have an explanation and maybe a public hearing on that also. There are a number of questions I have with the amendment in and of itself but I think first and foremost the thing to be said about it is that this is a circumvention of our rules, that it is putting small matters ahead of the important matters, and consuming more time on this legislative floor, and if we continue like this, we will not get to all the big matters that even individual Senators have identified as important matters much less the committee priority bills. So let's reject the amendment and establish our precedent and then move through the priority bills with an expedient and expeditious manner. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,