

April 1, 1982

LB 761

to learn about state government but one does learn about state government in all the different facets of all the different agencies of all the different concerns and as a ten year member of that committee I urge this body to reject the amendment and the subsequent ones offered by Senator Peterson.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson. Until we find him, how about, Senator Wiitala, would you like to speak on the subject?

SENATOR WIITALA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I would like to speak in opposition to Senator Peterson's amendments to LB 761, as a matter of fact, all three amendments. I understand his interests in economizing in an age when we have such a desperate economy. I also maintain that we shouldn't go on a head hunting mission of summarily chopping away our commissions, commissions that represent small vestiges of voices reflecting the views of neglected minorities in our state simply because we can't raise the necessary tax revenue that should have been raised a long time ago. Time and time again this has been brought up before this body, that this is a problem that should have been resolved after the last session last year in May or June or any time later, no special sessions entertained, that when the state's coffers start to decline take a serious look at our financial problems and address them. And the way of addressing it is the way that we have provided for resolving these problems in our Constitution and that is calling together the Board of Equalization and raising the necessary revenue that the state needs. If there are adjustments that need to be made after that by the Legislature by cutting its appropriations, well then that is all fair and well but to circuit this route that we are taking to justify not complying with our constitutional mandate of summarily cutting appropriations and cutting the guts right out of the state's services is intolerable. Thank you, members.

SENATOR NICHOL: Before calling on the next speaker we have a guest under the South balcony, former senator Lester Robinson from Kearney. Are you still here? Yes. Let's welcome Senator Robinson. Thank you for visiting us again. Senator Vard Johnson, did you wish to speak on this? The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease. All those in favor signify by voting aye, opposed nay.

CLERK: Senator Nichol voting yes.

SENATOR NICHOL: Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Okay, record.