

April 1, 1982

LB 761

SENATOR CLARK: I have been informed that that is not in order.

SENATOR KOCH: Then I will withdraw it as an April Fool's joke.

SENATOR CLARK: Pardon?

SENATOR KOCH: But the point is...I will withdraw it and say April Fool.

SENATOR CLARK: All right.

SENATOR KOCH: But the point is, you want to get tough, a lot of us can get tough in here. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Thank you. Senator Wesely, did you want to talk on the Fenger amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would oppose the Fenger amendment. I think Senator Koch made some comments in that regard as well. I guess my concern is singling out of state employees in this effort that Senator Fenger is proposing does that to try and take the brunt of the cuts that we are talking about at this point. It seems quite clear in my mind that it was the same situation back in the special session that we look first to the state employees, cutting them back, and state agencies, cutting them back, and we don't really look at some of the other parts of the budget that really need to be examined. One of the things that Senator Koch just pointed out is that there is a lot of state aid that we are talking about that we return to local subdivisions and to individuals. Last session we cut 3 percent of the budget to state agencies but we didn't touch that area that we have so much of in the budget anymore and that is state aid. We had proposed, Senator Landis and Fowler and Beutler and I proposed to cut 1 percent across the board, 1 percent for all the budget basically and found that that didn't meet with much approval. So the brunt of the cuts last year were in the state agencies. This year with the budget proposed by the Appropriations Committee I consider mostly they are making up for those cuts that were suffered last session. I think our budget has increased about 3 percent and most of that is going to the state agencies and the state employees in trying to compensate for some of the damage done last special session, but we don't really adjust too much the state aid question. Well, if we are going to start talking about the question of putting a limit on no increase for salaries for state employees, then