

April 1, 1980

LB 761

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would rise to oppose the amendment offered by Senator Fenger. On this particular amendment rather than argue because I assume I will have an opportunity to argue again as to what the percent ought to be, but I want to argue how the amendment is drafted because I obviously don't know how it would work. As I understand the amendment, it says that there will be no increase or adjustment in salaries until after January 1 with the process through the Appropriations Committee, but as I understand it, there is no reduction in the appropriation. So it is no help as far as tax rates are concerned unless somewhere along the line there is a reduction in the appropriation, which could easily be drafted but apparently is not a part of the amendment. But if you assume...if you are going to assume that we make...we are going to take all of the increase out by veto or on the floor, then I would remind you that you aren't going to have any money to make a retroactive increase next January because the rates that will be set in November will be set based upon the appropriation that this body has made. And there isn't any way at all that you can do a retroactive increase if you do not have the tax rates that raise the revenue that provides the money that pays the salaries. It is that simple. I hate to use the word "upfront" again, that's a big word this session, but if we want to be upfront, upfront means you have a tax rate set in November that will provide the revenue for the retroactive salary increase which not being in the bill you cannot do. So I would only oppose this amendment based upon how it is projected to work and apparently how it is drafted to work because I don't think you could do the things that even Senator Fenger wants to do by the nature in which this bill or amendment provides to have it done. So I would urge that you reject this amendment not only because it is inappropriate to make the sign of a salary adjustment that it proposes if it would work but more importantly because I don't believe it is a workable amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, while some members feel Scroogish this afternoon I feel a bit scriptural. I think Senator Kremer will be familiar with these verses. "Muzzle not the ox that treadeth out the corn". And I am sure the farmers understand the meaning of that but in case some of the city people don't, in the old, old days when some people in this body may have been children of twelve or thirteen years old, they didn't have the kind of equipment that they