

April 16, 1982

LB 816A

Very simply, Senator DeCamp wants to keep the distribution formula alive. It can make a lot of good political hay and that is the only question that we are dealing with. Now I am going to support Senator Chambers' motion even though as Senator DeCamp mentioned, the bill is passed and I don't think that outcome is going to change any. But the one thing we can do as a body is to clarify any constitutional issue. Now I can appreciate the need or the desire on some members' parts to have some political issue to kick around, an important political issue to kick around but it does not do... many of the members of this body who are running for reelection, a great deal of good to have this bill kick around throughout their district during the course of the elections. It doesn't do the Governor any good to have this bill kicked around. It doesn't do this Legislature any good to have this bill kicked around, legal actions, all kinds of other questions, etcetera. Now Senator DeCamp's threat is one that I think we ought to wholly disregard. Maybe, in fact, there will be all these kinds of motions. I don't they will be appreciated if there are, and I think that the patience of this body is running thin, but I do think if we can resolve this in a constitutional way so there isn't even any cloud, and I think that clearly that the bill is passed and that there isn't a problem, then that, in fact, ought to be the way it ought to be decided. One other issue that I will add just for the record is, we have not decided or discussed whether this exceeds the Governor's budget. It does not exceed the Governor's budget. It is a change of the present programs and for that reason I think Senator DeCamp's arguments are not correct. But, frankly, it is not necessary for this issue to be kicked around, litigated, litigated and litigated all year long in an election year. That is why I support Senator Chambers' motion, that is why it is the right thing to do. I would urge this body to reconsider its actions, pass it with 30 votes and we will be done with the issue once and for all.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland. I guess you are next. Okay, do you want to call the question? You can call it from here. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I see five hands. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries, debate ceases. Senator Chambers, you may close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator DeCamp and I know each other very well and I don't blame John at all for what he is doing. Were I situated as he is situated, I would say things designed to cause you to vote the way that I think you ought to vote.