

April 16, 1982

LB 761

we are still within a balanced budget as far as receipts that are anticipated. If it is overridden it will have no effect on the tax rate adjustments which are going to occur in any event. Thirdly, there was the discussion at least in the Appropriations Committee over the last year, or two or three, that it was desirable to reduce the number of employees as a part of that, also have better pay policies and a more effective group of citizens then being able to work for the state, be more adequately rewarded for their service. As I recall the figure that is given by the administration, about 1400 fewer employees are on today than there were four years ago. To that extent then, we ought to also at least have the salary adjustment somewhere balanced. The other thing I want to point out that I read in the paper this morning of having some reference to InterNorth as a private company and what they have done in the way of salary policy, and most of that has been related to the effective date of their salary policy which was indicated to be a six month delay. So out of curiosity I called or had InterNorth call us this morning to find out exactly what their salary policy was that was being used for something that should be comparable for the state. As I found out that in fact what their salary policy was is the adjustment takes place at the anniversary date of an employee's evaluation for their work, their salary adjustment is over an 18 month period this coming year. The significant thing, annualized their salary adjustment is 5½ percent compared to the 3.75 that we are proposing. But even if InterNorth is to be the guide, their salary adjustment on an annualized basis is 46 percent greater than what we would be proposing for state employees even if you override this veto. So if that is the guide, then you can certainly say that we are far, far more conservative in the adjustment than this one particular company. And they also, by the way, expanded their dental coverage to be included for employees which is what we did as well although we didn't fund it for this year. So I would urge that you would override this veto with the understanding that it does not impact tax rate. It does provide some equity and I believe that those employees who work for the state are entitled to even the 3.75 percent annualized salary that this would permit. Mr. President, I would ask for a Call of the House and a check-in roll call vote.

SENATOR CLARK: All right, we will have a Call of the House. All those in favor of a Call of the House will vote aye, opposed vote no. Record the vote.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays to go under Call, Mr. President.