

November 4, 1981

LB 8

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is offered by Senator Warner.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is the amendment that affects two agencies I indicated way early on that I was willing to support. You may want them split. The first one deals with the Commission on Aging and you should understand what this amendment does. There are two programs in the budget for aging. One deals with their aid. The other deals with the administration costs and the three percent reduction was applied to each, around six thousand in operations, ten thousand for aid. The issue was raised that the reduction aid could have the effect of a substantial reduction in federal funds available and a loss of a substantial amount, around one hundred and fifty thousand as I recall. The amendment makes one program. It would force the Commission on Aging to accept the full sixteen thousand dollar reduction but it would all have to come out of their operations cost. This was a proposal we discussed in committee as one alternative to merge it. We had two commissioners who will continue as members of the commission appear and indicate that they felt that they could absorb the full reduction in operations and that they would preserve the full amount of funds for the aid programs so that the food programs would continue not reduced and no federal funds would be lost but this preserves the Governor's intent of the total three percent. The other amendment deals with adult vocational ed and it would again restore the cuts in those two programs by transferring the cut to driver ed which the Commissioner of Education indicated that there was about ninety thousand and the amount of the change here to a different program is only eighty-six hundred dollars. So it is not material but it does preserve vocational ed, adult ed, to at least have the amount of...qualify for the full amount of federal funds that the original appropriation permitted presuming, of course, that Congress appropriates sufficient money to be utilized to match. And as I understand it, based upon those original bills Congress adopted in July, that would be true but, of course, what they do in the end still remains to be seen. So I would move adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Amendment on the desk. None? All right, withdrawn. The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I personally strongly support the Warner amendment. In both respects the essence of the amendment is we spend