

November 11, 1982

LB 1

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I only have one comment to make. Since it appears you want to go on and take the bill through without amendment and probably debate, somebody had better put a motion up there saying that there will be no amendments on Final Reading or any other point. Because there might be members who think that efforts should be made to work with this bill, not to nitpick, not to tear it apart, but have legitimate concerns and interests. Since at this stage, because it is late in the day, I suppose, and people are tired, there will be no attempt to amend it. When people are refreshed and they have had an opportunity, as I like to point out to drink some Ray Charles Coffee, which you know is Maxwell House, there may be a desire at that time to add amendments or attempt it. So if you really don't want to debate or have any more amendments you should get your proposition up there before anybody else does so when that bill lites wherever it is going to lite, all debate and amendments will successfully have been short circuited.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Burrows, di you wish to debate or is this a previous light? Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: I would like to discuss it. I can not support the bill. I appreciate the Appropriations Committee work, I think they have done a lot of good work on the bill, without at least an agreement by the Governor, if we are going to pass the bill and go home, an appropriations measure, opens up the language where it really turns to the Governor a totally free hand to write the legislation. What we are doing here, I feel, is trivial and totally insignificant in what happens when the bill goes to the Governor's office and he actually writes the cuts that will happen. I would certainly take his word if he made a commitment to abide by the decision of this Legislative body, in advance, I think his word would unquestionably be good. But, I know of no commitment by the Governor that he would not line item it exactly to his liking with no questions and if we go home that is his sole option, his pure option, an open to him to do. The other way we could avoid this is is before passage of the bill we had a commitment within our body to meet next week with an attempt or an opportunity to override any line item veto of the Governor. I feel strongly we have got the cart in front of the horse if the Legislature wants to be heard and felt as a body, as a legislative body that we are nonfunctioning, giving him an open checkbook to the Governor to write whatever cuts he likes if we pass this bill in any form prior to some commitments either of adjourning again after the passage and after the veto powers of the Governor come about or after any commitment by the Governor to accept or reject or state what he will do on this issue when it hits his desk. I feel all of us should expect something on this. I think we are giving up our total obligations as senators unless one of these two things comes about prior to the final passage of this bill. So I will vote against it on that basis. Tehre are some cuts which could have come about, I think strongly, state aid cuts that would I think severely turn the revenues back on the property tax which I think is the most disturbing tax to the tax payers of this state. That is why I am going to vote against it at this point. But, would remain open to changing my mind if I could see one of these positions changed. Thank you.

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