

that the issue will not go away simply because some people do not want to discuss it, do not want to hear the facts on the matter. I plan to pursue this to the very end. I think, clearly, I feel very strongly that the public feels they have a right to know more information than they're getting on this bill. So, with that, I wanted to forewarn you of my intent and also let you know of my feelings. I would ask the President to have my motion to pull this bill out of committee withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The motion is withdrawn. Move on to General File. I under Senator Warner is not here for LB 77, so we'll move on to LB 262, Senator Hall's bill. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 262 is on General File. It was a bill introduced by Senator Hall. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9, referred to the Government Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Government Committee, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Conway, please.

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. President, members, in the absence of the Committee Chairman, he's asked me to handle the committee amendments. The committee amendments very simply on this bill change the rate from a 4 percent addition on the tax down to 2 percent. That is simply all it does, from 4 to 2 percent. So, I urge the body, on behalf of the committee, to adopt that amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Are there any who wish to speak on the committee amendment? If not, the question...Senator Hall, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR HALL: If I could, Mr. President, I would like to speak on the committee amendments because the committee amendments strike in half the impact of the bill. Mr. President, members, I rise in support of the committee amendments to the bill. It is the lodging tax issue that we have dealt with before in front of this body, but it is different in that this portion of the lodging tax will be used to create a separate fund. That fund is a County Visitors Improvement Fund. The monies that currently are generated through the lodging tax go toward the Tourism Fund, and that is used just as the state lodging tax is, to promote tourism within the county that collects...levies and collects that tax. I've passed out for you three different