

May 4, 1989

LB 812

handed to me at this point, and it is being circulated, and I really haven't had fully time to digest it. We...I'd inform the body that we are having some very productive discussions talking about how to resolve the issue around the SSIG program, I don't want to do anything to make those discussions more difficult, because I think, ultimately, we are going to hopefully put another nasty issue behind us through some productive negotiations, but I guess I also would feel like I am not doing my duty if I request an Attorney General's Opinion on the constitutionality of a measure, get that opinion prior to the time that the bill was read, and not share it with members of the body. It is being distributed at this very moment. What I am suggesting by the bracket motion will accomplish two things. Hopefully it won't delay...the end of world, bring about an end of the world if we don't pass 812 today. It will give us a possibility of, at least me and Senator Hall and maybe Senator Schmit and Abboud, visiting with the university people to learn a little bit more about the Black and Veatch study on the Pharmacy School, hopefully get our concerns answered, so we can either support or oppose the thing with at least a little more knowledge. It will also give us an opportunity to look at the ramifications of this opinion. I apologize to the body. It is not...certainly it is not my intent to just spring this at the very last moment. We had been requesting the opinion from the Attorney General's Office and had been putting in prods to them that it needed to be done and it, seriously, just arrived in my hands as we were debating the Hall amendment. So my suggestion to the body is we delay the Final Reading of this bill a couple of days, and it is not my intent to, particularly the SSIG portion of the bill, to harass this portion of the bill or to do anything beyond what we need to do in light of the Attorney General's Opinion, and I would suggest we wait a couple of days to digest this information. And I would be interested in hearing what other people might have to say if they have had an opportunity to react to this rather late arriving opinion.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, followed by Senator Schmit and Senator Haberman.

SENATOR NELSON: I'll probably support the motion to bracket and I agree with Senator Withem on the SSIG. I wonder if Senator Hannibal would respond to a couple of questions that I wanted to ask before.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hannibal, would you respond, please?