

May 9, 1989

LB 814

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The motion is debatable. Senator Landis on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I am going to take just a few minutes of our time. I know it is late in the afternoon. Senator Bernard-Stevens was just successful in attaching a \$250,000 amendment on the basis of about a six minute speech. Others have done as well with very little evidence, documentary evidence, of making the case, but at this point, the body has drawn down the floodgates and we have...we have acknowledged that there is money to spend. There is also on this floor, it seems to me, the structural hostility or wariness between the body and the Appropriations Committee, and it seems to me that it is a little warmer this year than it has been in previous years; in part, I think, because the body suffers under the belief that no one knows how much money we have, and it is hard to exert any discipline on this floor and to support the Appropriations Committee in their efforts to be reasonable on budgetary issues when there is no figure that this body generally accepts. Now that is not their fault, but, frankly, I think that has gotten into our head, and because there is a bag of money out there the size of which remains unclear to us, we are spending money right and left. That is unfortunately I think part of the problem here. It also seems to me that this map betrays a certain amount of hostility which occurs in our body that is at work in some of our deliberations currently. It seems to me that there is also some hostility based on the green sheet, because if you read the green sheet the way it is laid out, the single most significant agenda this body from the floor has developed, property tax relief, can't be funded by the green sheet. Now I think the money is there but it looks as if the appropriation's agenda and the floor's agenda of property tax relief are coming to a head-to-head conflict which is why I think we have had, in part, these last two days. It seems to me that the body wants to say we want to be able to do major agendas from the floor, as well, and the Appropriations Committee is not denying that to us, I don't think, either, and they certainly are not trying to but, frankly, I have got to say I think that is out there roiling the waters. This green sheet says you have got \$65 million to spend this year, or, and in each of the next four years, or \$266 million to spend one time. But, unfortunately, the body has a tendency to like new ideas, new programs, and new enthusiasms, and the Appropriations Committee with their months and months of hearings hear old