

but I would oppose Senator Landis's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Langford, please.

SENATOR LANGFORD: Call the question.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, that was the last light but thank you anyway, Senator Langford. Senator Landis, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Senator Scofield indicated that she would like to keep her options open and really would like to pursue an area of needs based support to cities. The amendment that I am striking, the portion of 525 is not at all needs based. And if she wants to carry water for that idea, there is one and only one instrument available to do that and that's LB 683. This...this language and this disbursement formula has no needs characteristic analysis...needs analysis in it at all. And if that's the notion, then let's focus our attention on 683. Secondly, if the idea is that we should keep our options open, isn't that exactly our problem at this moment, that we are balancing in the air all too many options? And the Appropriations Committee has risen one by one saying let's keep our options open. Actually, it seems to me it's time to close some of those options and take them off the table. I'm surprised to hear that the Appropriations Committee won't assist in that direction. Normally, we need to focus our budgeting drive to make sure that we can do what is within our means and, at this point, we have alive \$11 million in municipal aid. Now, my amendment suggests let's get down to the issue of \$4.5 million of municipal aid. Let's take 6.5 of it off the table. It's an option that we do not any longer need to entertain as we move into the waning days and, oddly enough, it's a choice between a bill that on this floor has had over 25 votes and an issue that's come out of the Appropriations Committee nine to zip. Unfortunately, this is a continuation of that floor agenda and the Appropriations Committee hostility to floor developed agendas. Frankly, we have to make some choices. I would suggest to the body this sum of \$6.5 million, thank you, but no, thank you. If there is going to be an agenda here, let it be the ones that the cities have chosen, ridden, selected and supported all the way down the line as opposed to prescribing for them what they should want in 525. I urge the body to foreclose some options, take some things off the table, reduce the amount of municipal aid that