

March 4, 1992

LB 1063, 1120

goes any further, if other things are there, I can't do it, I can't support a CA. Call it a threat, call it political reality, but everyone has known that LB 1120, in its pure form, and 1063, in its pure form, was not going to be successful if we had in our hearts the idea of giving the people a chance to decide with the constitutional amendment. We've known that was going to come. We're at that crossroads almost. The discussion has started. And I think we, as a body, have to really start taking some serious looks at what we want the conclusion to be, because in my heart, as I analyze where we have gone, the turmoil we've suffered through together as a group and where we can go, this proposal that will be before us, sponsored by Senator Warner, is, I believe, Senator Withem characterizes our last best hope, and I think that is correct. And I say this to my good friend, Senator Moore, and to Senator Lamb and to Senator Withem and others that we must be very careful on the rhetoric that we say here...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...this morning. The suspension is not a decision on whether we're going to get an up or down vote on Senator Johnson's amendment. We all know that that can be drafted and offered as...as an amendment to LB 1063. There is a chance for that. It's a procedural thing Senator Moore is talking about. What we also know is that we must find common ground to be successful and successful I define as getting a constitutional amendment before the public so they can have their say on how they view their tax policy, and, remember, it's their tax policy, not ours. And to deny the public a chance to have their voices heard, no matter which way it would turn out, to me, would be a definition of failure on our part. And we're at that crossroads and I urge the body to look very seriously...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...at meeting the crossroads to give our people a chance to have their say on the tax policy. This is it. This is it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Bohlke, you're next.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Bernard-Stevens, in your conclusion then were you saying you support or do not