

September 28, 1992 LB 9

those of you out there that have contemplated any building on your own in your private situation, obviously right now interest rates are as favorable as they have probably been in 20 some years; construction costs...construction bids have consistently in the last 14 months come in well below estimates. So you have a time of low costs and low interest rates. It is a very, very favorable time to do capital construction. Obviously, if you go to the Governor's plan and delay it two years, if you even actually build them then, the chances of having as favorable a situation as exists right now is extremely, the chances are extremely low because I mean those two things are as low as they have been in 20 years. They may be better, probably not. If you are committed to these projects, I think it is a safe assumption to make that now is the time to do them. Now you could kill LB 9 and continue down the path that we originally chose in LB 760. Well, the fact is the state is in a budget situation, unfavorable budget situation with the budget gap. We need some money to address that problem. If Senator Schmit wants to call this smoke and mirrors, it is apropos for this one, but I think it is the responsible thing to do to free up some money to address our problem, yet retain our commitment to these proposals. And, actually, LB 9, the actual committee amendment is simply to add the emergency clause. As I have talked about, the actual emergency clause would allow you to take advantage of some very favorable construction costs and interest rates possibly yet this calendar year or early in 1993. So with that, I would ask for adoption of the committee amendments and actually ask for advance...record, after that ask for advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Ashford, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President and members. And I stand in support of this bill and its advancement. A couple of points, first, I don't see a whole lot of difference between the commitment in this bill than the commitment we made in MIFR to the political subdivisions, and the same argument could be made that there are other, certainly in the area of education, that this 4 or \$5 million could be allocated to general education and that would be a good argument, and that there are some of us who are very concerned about the lack of money going to general education system. But be that as it may, I think that Senator Moore absolutely is correct and correctly states that the Legislature did make a commitment to these projects, as did the