

September 29, 1992 LB 20

none, do you wish to close, Senator Wesely? He waives closing. We will now vote on the committee amendments to LB 20. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President...

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lindsay, now that we have adopted the committee amendments, you are allowed an opening on the bill if you would like. We will proceed to that opening.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Speaker Baack. Members of the Legislature, I think we finally get to the issue that we should have been talking about for the last roughly six hours of Floor Debate. Because the last six hours of Floor Debate were ostensibly on the committee amendment, and I've kept my mouth shut throughout most of that because I don't think...because we weren't on the issue. We were on a simple question of when do we start those benefits? Everything we've talked about so far has been when do we, or excuse me, when do we start the effective date of the program? That's what the issue should have been but we've gotten into all these other issues. Now I'd finally like to respond to some of the rhetoric that we've been hearing on the floor. Contrary to what Senator Crosby has suggested, I didn't bring this bill because it's more fun than going to an amusement park. I didn't do this because it's something I enjoy doing. I'm doing it because we have a \$150 million problem and we have to do something. I suspect if we look at some of the votes of those people who have been engaging in the filibuster, I suspect we'll see that there haven't been a heck of a lot of votes for cuts anywhere. The problem is I think we have to make those cuts. Now I think that's the responsible thing to do. And if we're not going to make those cuts, let's quit the charade and say we're going to raise taxes and let's see if the people are willing to do that. I know the voters in the 9th District are not. I think the voters in the 9th District want to see us make those cuts, make those tough decisions, and to live with those decisions that we make. I don't think it's responsible for us not to do that. Let's look at exactly what LB 20 as drafted with the committee amendments now would do. Commencing on December 1, meaning