

September 29, 1992 LB 4

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read Hall amendment, FA10S3, found on page 116 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I rise in support of the amendment. The discussion that we've had over the last few days that I've listened to has dealt, much of it, with those individual programs that we could not afford. Senator Moore spelled it out, the boom and bust cycle that we go through, the issues such as programs that we know when we enact them we probably can't afford them, and we have to think about those kinds of things, the tad bit of cruelty that it puts on individuals when we enact them but don't know if we can pay for them down the road. And they have exclusively been in the area of those that are less than fortunate. We just stripped \$30,000 away from a little program known as the legislative scholarship school, if you will, because I can't remember the exact name of it, but a little program that dealt with roughly, you know, 40 to 60 students, to give them something to look forward to, something to aspire to, hopefully, down the road. That was only \$30,000. In the bill prior to that we were talking about somewhere between 3 to 4 million dollars for ADC mothers and the pregnancy payments, if you will, that were dolled out on a monthly basis. Now we're looking at delaying a program for mentally disabled individuals that would allow them to enter into the work stream and, in effect, very likely become taxpaying citizens. Without this money the ability for that to take place, at any point in time, is very tenuous. And we have a situation where we're going to put that off. Rather than do that I offer an option, and that option is to put off, for approximately 400 people, \$6.7 million in tax benefits. In 1990, 420 people took advantage of the capital gains exclusion, allowed for under LB 775, to the tune of \$6.7 million in tax benefits, \$6.7 million for 420 people. You figure it out in terms of how much they divvy up apiece, just on a per capita basis. I'm sure there are a few that got a little more than others. But we're talking 420 people. A program that this body supported, that this body endorsed, that this body does not purport to cut that costs us \$6.7 million in 1990, 5.2 million in 1989, where there were only 308 people that were benefitted by it, \$1 million in 1988, the first year it was effective, where 227 people took advantage of it, and the estimates are