

November 12, 1992 LB 1

through the vote today on LB 1. With that, I would like to give any remaining time I have to Senator Ashford.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Ashford. Senator Ashford, there is about two and a half minutes.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you very much. Thank you, Senator Will. I haven't spoken on this issue yet, but I would just like to make three or four points, a couple of them have already been made. I rise in opposition to the motion to return. And I am going to vote for the bill and for many of the reasons that Senator Moore set out before. I've been waiting, for the last ten days, to find out whether there would be an alternative to what is offered in LB 1. And there has not been one presented to us. And the reason there hasn't been one presented to us, quite frankly, is because there isn't an alternative to raise \$97 million, on a one-year basis, out there that does not hit the same people that we're hitting now. If you were to impose a sales tax across the board, you would be imposing a sales tax on the same real estate interests that will have to pay under this bill. You would have to...you would also be assessing a sales tax on other construction interests and other interests that are not now paying a sales tax. So there would be the same lobbying groups that would be coming in here opposing it as there are, in fact many more opposing it than are opposing this. The depreciation surcharge is a one-time only tax. And it's not politically correct anymore to say read my lips, I'll never do it again, but I won't do this again. This is an ina...it is not a good idea. It...hopefully it is constitutional, we'll have to see how that works out.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: But there is no other option. To vote no, with no other option, is to increase property taxes to our homeowners drastically, because we're going to be looking at a \$250 million shortfall, which will result in a reduction in state aid to cities and counties, which will result in an increase in property taxes far in excess of what this bill will do. So, all our options are narrow. I wish there had been another option. I wish the real estate interests had come in with another option, but they didn't. And many of them live in my district, and I've heard from all of them, and I have sympathy for them. And I wish I didn't have to vote for this. If there was any other th...if there was any other way, I