

January 16, 1996 LR 297

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I see five hands. The question before you is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Debate ceases. The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, it has been a fine debate on the question generally I think, not a whole lot on my amendment. I am sorry I couldn't have filed the amendment a little later. One of the problems with our system is you can't judge exactly when amendments should come up. There should be a lot more general discussion I think, but now we are on the amendment, and as you know, the amendment has to do with making this resolution a real resolution, basically. This resolution is specific in that it says that we will get to \$2 for \$100 of assessed valuation but it doesn't say when. It doesn't say when. Is it the year 2000, is it the year 2010, is it the year 2020, 2030? Without saying when we're going to get there, we're not saying anything at all, are we? We're saying we have a bunch of goals, but you know, one of the most important, one of the defining goals we've left out? We haven't said we're going to get there by such and such a time. Let me analogize a little bit this debate to the debate that's been going on in the national Congress with regard to balancing the budget. Now I don't agree with everything that the House Republicans have done by any means, but you know one good thing they really did? They said we're going to balance the budget and we're going to do it in seven years, by golly. And they forced the President to deal with the matter in a period of time, seven years. And the reason they did that is because for years, as we all know, throughout the 1980s and into the beginning of the 1990s, the Congress said every year, yeah, we're going to balance the budget. And then when they got to the moment of action they floundered and flopped and the public lost confidence in them completely. And you have a new Congress now, basically, because of that, in my opinion. And so the same thing is happening here. The public's seen this game before, they've seen it played before their eyes at the federal level in all the years just past, continuing this year. If we're going to be honest with the public, if we're going to be honest with