

February 21, 1996 LB 1205

announce that the apples that are being distributed are courtesy of Senator Hudkins. Today is her birthday Happy birthday, Senator Hudkins. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem would move to amend. (Withem amendment, FA450, appears on pages 860-61 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WILL: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, first of all I'd like to thank the three colleagues in here who allowed me to get into double digits on that last amendment. That was definitely appreciated. Secondly, let me explain this amendment, and then I'm going to have a question to Senator Bromm, and so I'd appreciate it if he might, you know, pay a little attention to this because I'm going to ask him his views on this amendment. I haven't had an opportunity to visit with him. What this amendment does is, number one, it provides what the proponents of the bill indicated that they wanted, and that is a diversified portfolio. It indicates that only a third of...and I will apologize, this was a very hastily drafted amendment. We talked about it yesterday afternoon, and it probably isn't in as good a form as it should be. But the intention of this is that a third of the value of all of this money we're talking about will continue to be invested in real estate. That would provide for probably a sale of about half of the school lands that exist out there, but we would not have this fire sale sort of concern that I have and we would have a diversified portfolio. Second is that there would be a cost-benefit analysis provided on all of these sales so that we would make a determination to the best of the ability of the experts in the field as to whether an individual piece of property would continue to gain more return as a...continue to hold that property in land and receive the rental values, or whether we'd be better off selling that individual piece of property and invest that. And thirdly, it is an attempt, and this is language I'm not sure is drafted as well as it ought to be, but it would provide that both the investment officer and the board would be involved in evaluating and giving a report on the return of investment that we have. Again, could I ask for....

SENATOR WILL: Senator Withem. (Gavel.) Please give your