

February 4, 1975

PRESIDENT: Mr. Clerk, do you . . .

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion to amend LB 171 to strike all reference to bidding. Signed, Senator Duis.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, yesterday we went through a hearing in Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee relative to the matter of bonds for cities and local subdivisions of government. I became fully convinced that we don't need this bidding proposition in any way, shape, or form. It seems very ridiculous that we have bidding up to a nominal sum, of let's say five thousand dollars, but then we have negotiations for a bond issue of five million, ten million dollars, and so on down the line. I do trust, implicitly, the people we have voted into our local subdivisions of government. Just as yesterday they, very magnanimously, said they trusted us to the fullest and greatest extent. I agree with them. I tickled to death and they flattered me with this. I feel that they are right. Consequently, I feel that it's right that we trust those people who are in local governments, and that we should not have, under any circumstances, bidding on any level. Because if negotiations are good on one level, they're good on all levels. There's no reason we can't negotiate a police cruiser, automobile, as well as we can a twenty million bond issue. So I, therefore in all sincerity, propose this amendment so that we will not be troubled any longer with the increase in amounts, the escalation clauses. I've been in the committee. We've gone from, if I recall correctly, down around the one thousand, two thousand dollar level, or up to where we're now at the five thousand dollar level. Then they go to the ten thousand dollar level. We brought them back to the five thousand dollar level. I do sincerely believe that negotiation or bidding leave them the right. They begged us yesterday to leave this up to them. They'll make the decision whether they should negotiate or bid. I trust them. I trust them all the way. Consequently, I think that we should take all bidding out of this bill so that they may be able to do as they say they wish to do. Let them have the right to either negotiate or bid, whichever they think is best for the people of their subdivision of government.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stoney, I'm sorry. Your light did not show up here.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, first to answer a question that Senator Stull posed. The reason for the escalation clause is due to the fact that we had testimony in committee that a number of bids, as a matter of fact the majority of bids that are received today, contain an escalation clause. In one instance one individual testified that of thirteen bids the were submitted, ten carried escalation clauses. This being a fact, I think it's very important that we do have and carry an escalation clause in this particular bill.