

February 24, 1976

CLERK: Mr. President, the motion is moved by Senator Mahoney to place LB 992 on General File notwithstanding the action of the Committee.

(Speaker Burbach presiding)

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Murphy. For what purpose do you arise, Senator Murphy?

SENATOR MURPHY: Well I just wanted to point out to Senator Barnett that the difference between a statement of fact and a lie is who said it.

SPEAKER: Proceed Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, for the sake of brevity I will, at this time, not have any opening statement on the raising of the bill other than saying that I do hope it is raised. I'll save my best thrust for the final argument.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise to support the motion. I am too going to be brief. I wish to say that when this idea of annual sessions came before us and came before the people I guess many people may have thought as I did and that is that in our annual sessions and this particular short session that we would have a brevity of bills introduced, that we'd take care of the business that was left over from the previous session, we'd take up some very necessary items, and mainly we would do budgetary work. Well after having experienced this I don't find this to be true at all. I find that we go through the same process and I'm not condemning the Legislature or any legislator. I think that the people, the agencies, the departments and all of the situations involved with government have just besieged legislators with bills, as well as the associations, organizations, etc. Consequently, we have a great influx of bills.

We also have the problem of the close of the long session, which you all experienced last year when we got down to about the last week. All of a sudden everybody's bill that was left there on the board became the most important thing in the world. We just had to get it over to Select File. Before we closed that session and we had what you would call pandemonium here in this Legislature for about the last four days. All of those bills got over to Select File.

So what did happen this particular year, we started out with Select File just like as if it was General File. Now you take a look at that board up there and you'll find out we haven't even gotten to General File. As a matter of fact the Speaker in his wisdom, and I think it is very good wisdom that he has used, is now putting some budget bills and appropriation bills up before us so that we can possibly get them over across the board. We've just done a miserable job by, in the long session, putting all those bills over to Select File and then arguing Select File as though it's been General File.