

May 11, 1983

LB 59

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak on the Chambers motion?

SENATOR DECAMP: Well, Mr. President, this is a pretty significant amendment. It just completely changes the bill, goes back to the Legislature setting the tax rates, reinstates the Legislature increasing income taxes here. I mean this is what we spent, what, 10, 15, 20 percent of the session agreeing not to do and here in kind of a blitz, I guess, Senator Chambers expects that we're going to repudiate everything and go with that. I would urge you to reject it and I cannot even imagine those people who supported the Governor would accept this after having given their word on this other amendment and so I would ask Senator Morehead not to support it because it would not be, it would not be proper.

PRESIDENT: Senator Morehead. Let's give Senator Morehead your attention, please.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President, members of the body, even without the gentle guidance of John DeCamp, I had no intention of supporting this because a compromise is a compromise and it was reached in good faith. I, too, like Senator Chambers have some reservations at this point but I guess in maintaining the image of what I believe to be a positive approach to things I will continue to think positively about the Board of Equalization and I will go along with the compromise issue as has been presented and I will stand with that compromise issue. I urge...

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion? Is there further discussion? Senator Chambers, I'll let you close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Morehead said she'll stand with the compromise. She means she'll stand with it or fall by it. Compromises are things that can be good or bad depending on your point of view with reference to the result achieved. I think this is not a compromise; it makes the Legislature look good. It does not give the Governor what he wants. It's one of those attempts to try to get 25 votes behind some kind of a bill and the way to do that was to have the Legislature adopt the position of one who is running from a position which he or she had earlier taken very forthrightly. The Legislature now, I think, realizes that the Board of Equalization cannot be compelled to raise the sales tax to four percent. That being the case, it escapes me how and why the Legislature would insist on going through with this charade. The Legislature ought to set this tax. Senator DeCamp, of all people on this floor knows very well that if you want the tax raised to four percent, the only way it's going to be done with