

March 1, 1984

LB 994

PRESIDENT: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, I know that this is preliminary in Senator Johnson's mind, but one of the things that I don't want to do in this session is to leave the sales tax in any form that goes in one-fourth percent equivalents. I have had a number of people from my small communities say, well, I just got my cash register set so I can go at half percents but not quarter percents. I realize this is preliminary and that a lot can happen with the tax rates before this session ends. In fact, I think this is way too early to even talk about this. If you want to provide stipends for teachers, let's just vote that part of it in and the money will have to come. That is the way the system is set up this year. I would also warn you that if you vote for stipends, the money will have to come and you are raising taxes. So just those couple of things is all I want to say. I don't want that tax rate when we get through to be three and a quarter percent or three and three quarter percent. I think it ought to be at least in no finer increments than a half percent. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on the Rod Johnson amendment? Senator Vickers. Well, Senator Rod Johnson, you may close.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I appreciate the arguments that have been laid out by Senator Newell and DeCamp and Senator Kahle. They bring up good points. Senator Newell has talked about local control. He has offered us various proposals for property tax relief, and like I said before in my opening, it comes down to the fact that we really have to make a commitment here. Are we going to make a commitment on property taxes or are we going to make a commitment here on the state level and do it with either income or sales tax? This amendment certainly is a little premature because we are certainly a long way from the end of resolving this particular issue, but as I mentioned in my opening, it was my intent to feel out where the Legislature was at on this particular matter, and whether we are actually going to do something. You know, I just was talking to Senator Fenger, we were talking about