

March 7, 1984

LB 881

should not tax lid legislation be authorized past the current expiration date. There are a number of reasons why this amendment is appropriate and should be adopted. The Education Committee joined these two bills in a single hearing because of their similar interest. Two, during the hearings of these two bills the Governor's office testified, as did others, that LB 881 was a quick fix, short-term solution that provided the minimum necessary action to avoid a serious budgetary shortfall in the Western Technical Community College area. This amendment would provide longer term flexibility which is needed in view of questions over property valuations, state aid and lid legislation. Three, by adopting the amendment the Western area will not have to undergo the reduction in force procedures next year which it was legally obligated to institute this year. Under state law when budget projections fall below the amount necessary to maintain operations, postsecondary institutions must notify staff who may be terminated. This process is both demoralizing and disruptive since employees may seek other jobs, and even if they choose to wait, the stress can cause disruption of the institutions activities and effectiveness. Without this amendment Western will undoubtedly be forced to undergo the RIF process next year, as well as return to this Legislature for extension of the authority to exceed the levy and to increase the amount by which the levy may be exceeded. I move for the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb, then Senator Newell.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members. I'm certainly surprised at the Speaker. I'm certainly...I'm sure also that Senator Beutler is also very...where did he go? He's also alarmed, I'm sure, but he's disappeared. Where are you, Senator Beutler? Here we have the Speaker, the number one person in the Legislature, trying to fold another bill into a bill that is up here on Final Reading. We don't allow that, do we, Senator Haberman, not even for the Speaker? Okay. That's what he's trying to do. Basically this bill would give...would increase the property tax out there up to two point...is it 2.2 cents per hundred, 2.4? Well 4.2 versus 2.2, so he's going for the big one. LB 889 is the big one. This is the little one. He is impatient.