

March 14, 1984

LB 880

question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, would you respond, please.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Senator Wesely, are you willing to yield to a question? Thank you. I am curious. You have an amendment if we defeat the committee amendments? Is that your plan?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, first I want to see what we do with the committee amendments but if the committee amendments are defeated I would be glad to discuss a possibility of deleting the dental coverage, yes, from the plan.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Deleting...oh, okay. Thank you, Senator Wesely. I think it is important that we all understand what is going on and I think it is important that we all look at the sheet that Senator Wesely provided us with. If we defeat the committee amendments you can plan on having a 19.3 percent increase in the amount we pay for insurance for our employees. You look down at the various plan options. It is the fifth one down I believe. It says, "Governor's plan, self-insurance with dental coverage." That is how the bill is written. We are talking a 19.3 percent increase. By keeping the current plan as the committee has chosen to do we are only going to have an 8.4 percent increase and we will keep some stability for our state employees in knowing what kind of insurance they are going to have. So when Senator Wesely says so loudly, "hear ye, hear ye, fiscal conservatives," I would say, hear ye, hear ye, fiscal conservatives, listen a little more closely. Look at your sheet. See exactly what type of increase we are looking at if you defeat the committee amendments. I would urge this body's support for the committee amendments, a reasonable increase of 8.4 percent. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Howard Peterson, then Senator DeCamp, then Senator Marsh.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would rise, too, to support the committee amendments. It seems to me that Senator Wesely had his opportunity the night of the hearing