

March 30, 1984

LB 568A

priorities as to what the tax rates shall be and, therefore, have determined there is only so much money. And with that idea in mind and with the knowledge that, in my opinion, at least, 568 itself makes a good policy decision, one that I think this body should make and one that I think we should, in fact, fund fully but although I, as I indicated, I am sure we are not going to, so I am going to ask you to return 568A to Select File to lower the A bill from the \$2 million that is in it now for this year to \$500,000 and the intent...that's \$4 million for the next fiscal year, to \$2 million. And I want you to know that I do this hesitantly. I understand that this is not going to bring about the increase in the vocational programs in many areas of this state that we had hoped that it would, but it will be some small token and some help. So I would ask your adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, having been one of those who has voted for 568 the last two rounds, I am simply announcing that for my own sake, I understand the underlying rationale, I appreciate it. I think vocational education is important. The notion of the amendment, however, is to reduce from the real need of \$2 million to a half million dollars in appropriation this year and to commit ourselves, at least our intent, to \$2 million next year. That money which I intend of the remaining \$15 million to spend for education includes \$3.5 million for teacher retirement and nearly \$2 million in 994. In other words, over 35 percent of the remaining money that we have to spend, I would suggest that we spend in education. Of those choices, I think teacher retirement is higher, at least for that section that does not have early retirement and the innovative programs in 994 are more important than what will be secured in 568. What we will be doing with 568 is placing machinery in place and creating another mouth into which we will have to place funds over time. And for my own sake, I have decided that this is a program I can no longer support in this final crunch in the varying competitions in the priorities of these last several bills. I intend to oppose the Vickers amendment. I intend