

April 16, 1973

(Start Belt #4)

PRESIDENT: The Clerk speculates that it would take two days after it becomes finally engrossed, whatever time it takes to move down here; that would depend on Emory Burnett's operations over there. We're expecting that that might run 3 days, excuse me--a day, we think he could handle it.

SENATOR CARPENTER: It would seem to me that in any case it's fair to assume if the body wants to do what I suggest, that we could get out of here and adjourn Friday.

PRESIDENT: That's correct. On that bill alone, yes.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Mr. President, it seems to me that we ought to bracket, and this is only a suggestion--you consider it for your own judgment and your own welfare now and in the future--that we ought to not pass any more bills on final reading because they all contain money. Some of them large sums of money and then we ought to spend all of our time this week on general file and other positions in order to get those bills from general file over to E&R for Engrossment or so far as they can into final reading. Obviously we can come back here in January and that will be soon enough for us and then I think, for example, we ought to be sure that no one is going to spend any of the trust fund for any purpose and I think we should disregard and not pass a capital improvement bill this session. Now the Governor says that he can do certain things and maybe he can, I don't know. He says he can reduce the sales tax and the income tax, if he can, God bless him! Now that's what I propose, otherwise if you don't do that my friends, you're going to spend a lot of money because you can't control it in my judgment and this is a highly practical--I've always made these motions, not to this extent, in the past. In the past I was not really serious to the extent I thought it--be done because the problem wasn't acute as it is now. The people of this State and the people of this Nation are listening to those people advocate economy. They don't understand the problem at all, they have no realization what we do in this body and they don't have as much understanding what they do in the United States Congress and you can't expect them really to know. They go upon the suggestions that appeal to them. Now I think we're at the time of life and we're all adults and I hope that everyone will discuss this thing before we get into final reading. I hope the Chair will go along with that without suspending the rules, but it seemed to me that this--this is the time for consideration of what's the right and the practical thing to do so again, let me say I would hope that we'd hold all the bills on final reading and I've got one there I'd like to pass and this is not easy for me to suggest but I think for once in my life I have to be consistent and hold those bills there and all other bills in a like position until we come back in January, spend all the rest of the time this week to move what we can from general file as far as we can, to be sure that no one, including the Governor can spend the trust funds for anything and then disregard and not have a capital improvement program here and let the people understand what a frugal government is and let's find out if they want it. If they want it, they ought to get it and they ought to get it without any embellishments, without any excuses, without any reasons. I don't think they want it but this is the only way we can find out and I stand on this floor and I attempt to do this, not because Governor Exon's the Governor or I'm a Democrat or what anybody else--this is a highly practical position which we're faced with not very often. The responsibility is ours. If he can reduce the sales tax, the income tax--as he promised he would do, he can operate the State as he says he can do, then I think once in our life we ought to give him the chance and that's what I'm going to do--have, for other people have made the statements I hope and presume they will make. I'll make