

April 16, 1973

difference between the committee amendments and the original bill is 2% or less. The basic difference then is not dollars but direction. The Governor feels we ought to take a certain direction especially in the area of higher education, the committee felt in its judgment that perhaps we ought to move another direction. So really rather than dollar wise, it is a difference in direction. Now as far as--and I'm not trying to prejudge what your interests are but I know that you have an interest in the welfare portion of the budget. There is no difference in 259 as recommended by the Governor and as recommended by the committee in the welfare area--it is the same. There is no guarantee based upon our information that the welfare budget as recommended is going to hold forth beyond the first part of January. Nobody can predict from Washington as near as I can tell nor through the Department of Welfare what's going to happen in this area. So far as that particular item is concerned which I think is of prime importance to you, there is no basic difference.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'll tell you now what my interest was. Welfare definitely is an interest with me, not just welfare but what the Legislature is doing by this action. The first question was whether or not in your best judgment this LB 259 is an adequate appropriation measure. I thought your answer was going to be that it is not, but in view of the Governor's representations this morning you were willing to give him a chance to do what he thought was best and adequate. Then if you had stated that in your best judgment it was not the best bill, I was going to ask you the question why would you vote against your best judgment. But since you do agree with this bill I can't ask the second question.

SENATOR MARVEL: And my answer to you was, we are in annual sessions and because we are in annual sessions we've got time between July 1 and January to keep very close track of this particular legislation and as far as I'm concerned, the Legislature is not abrogating its responsibility. The Legislature after the speech this morning is saying to the Governor, fine you can reduce taxes, you can provide adequate services for the State, here's your opportunity, let's see you do it and by the same token we provide as does an y legislative body in this country what we call legislative oversight which means it's our responsibility to watch very carefully to see that the services are provided as promised.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Proud and then Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR PROUD: Well, just to make the record crystal clear and I know none of you would want it less, since I have been in the Legislature, we have discussed the budget line by line and section by section and I want to be sure that the body knows precisely what it's doing.

(End of Belt #11)

(Begin Belt #12)

It has decided apparently not even to discuss this budget, not to discuss one dollar of it but yet spend millions. So so we're all clear in what we're doing, I now move to discuss this budget, I move that the chairman of the Appropriations Committee discuss this budget with us line by line.

PRESIDENT: Senator Proud's motion is to discuss the budget line by line. Is there need for discussion of that motion? Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President and Mr. Speaker, I believe this