

April 16, 1973

these people have been in for some time that we studied this thing to death but an additional study will tell you the same thing that these people are at a level of retirement now where they can no longer, where they can no longer live with any degree of dignity and many of them are becoming wards of the state. And so I suggest that the problem is serious. I want to move this bill as far as I can and I don't think an additional study will do anything for us. I think that the committee made it very clear that this bill was needed and there was a great deal of support within the committee. I agreed to the committee amendments simply because I wanted to move this across. This was the easiest way according to the recommendation of the Director of the PRB board

(End of Belt #16)

(Begin Belt #17)

by a number of actuaries, including the actuaries of the committee. Now there are a lot of problems within the retirement system. There are a lot of problems of groups having less benefits and others participating less than those but I think that a resolution to study this issue would be no more than an attempt to skirt it and I think this Legislature has to face this issue and I'd just as soon get your sentiments now. So Mr. Chairman I move that we reject Senator Whitney's move to kill the committee amendments, adopt my amendment and let's move it as far as we can and if we get it on Final Reading and we're not going to pass any of those bills then let's leave it there and let's have it set for position in early January. I think this bill needs some action and it needs some action now and I am not content to sit by and wait for additional studies because I think additional studies are primarily for one or two purposes-- one, to gather facts; we know what the facts are; two, they are to delay and there are those that want to delay. But I'm certainly not in that number and I want to move this forward now and so I ask you to reject Senator Whitney's motion.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion now of Senator Whitney's motion which was to reject the committee amendments? All right, that be the case then Senator Whitney you may close on your motion. Senator Whitney is closing now on his motion.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, it seems to me that the thing here to do is to reject these committee amendments because it has been declared by our Attorney General that they are unconstitutional and then we should bracket this again and then have a retirement committee make a study of how we can approach this thing. Now this morning for a whole solid hour I had a meeting with Emory Burnett, our bill drafter, and with Mr. Klinemiller, our director of the PERB, the Public Employees Retirement Board and we looked over the amendment which is being proposed and now it's just reworded just a little differently and we cannot determine how we can administer this. There's so many problems involved that we just simply cannot decide until we have prepared some more amendments and clarified them and come in with a proposed amendment that would be satisfactory. Now for example, we do not know the fiscal impact of this bill. It will range somewhere perhaps between \$30 million and \$35 million. It may even be more than that. The amendment has not been taken up with the Director of the Public Employment Retirement Board. I asked him this morning if he had been consulted in this and he said no. The amendment is not properly written so that we can understand exactly how to go about it to determine how much the cost will be because we don't know how to administer it.