

April 17, 1973

walk away from that and, if the Governor criticizes us for walking away from it, he is correct in that regard. Now, we can walk away from ADC. In some respects, I certainly would like to do that. We have got LB235 in front of us. I provides, as I recall, for 80% funding of need. Now, I talked to some ladies yesterday, and I mean ladies, who I believe are not taking advantage of ADC but are having trouble, a lot of trouble, living on that money. Their husbands took off and nobody, apparently, is going to get them back. Now, I may not feel sorry for the ladies themselves but I certainly feel sorry for the children who have to be fed out of that money. There just simply isn't enough. Now, we can walk out of here and nobody can stop us Thursday or Friday. Now, let's look for a moment at the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee spent months, literally months, discussing the Governor's budget and when they finished their discussion they came up with amendments and yet, all of a sudden after all this work and all this time, the Budget Committee is telling us, forget all the work we did. We will just take the Governor's word and pass his budget. Now, I submit to you that that doesn't make any sense except for the fact that the Governor continuously attempts to put us in an embarrassing position and I can understand Senator Stahmer's and Senator Marvel's reaction to that. The Governor says pass my budget. We will lower taxes and everybody claps their hands, probably the majority of the people. And I can understand their frustration and I am not unduly criticizing them but let me remind the body of this last point. That we can reduce taxes in this state to zero if we want to. With 33 votes, we can do anything we want and the Governor can't do a cotton-pickin' thing about it because we...we may not be able to reduce them to zero but we can reduce them way down because we can repeal all spending bills. We can repeal all spending bills on the statutes that the Constitution permits us to repeal. Whose responsibility is this? It's ours. It's not the Governor's, and we are either going to take that responsibility or we're not going to take it. Can we just dump this in the Governor's lap? Yes, if we want to run out of here. I'm for staying and taking this thing head on and there is nothing in the world that prevents you or me from pushing that red button on a spending bill, if we've got the nerve to do it. I'm wondering if we have the nerve. Therefore, I support Senator Barnett's motion.

PRESIDENT: The motion before us is to reconsider the action on the Carpenter motion of yesterday and next to speak is Senator Marsh, then Syas, Mahoney, Goodrich, and Stahmer. Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, I share with you one of the many pieces of mail I received this morning. Quote, "I am writing to you because of the vote today on the Governor's budget proposal. I feel the Budget Committee amendment should be considered by the Legislature. There are many areas where the Governor does not go far enough in support of state programs and I would rather pay the taxes he is talking about cutting and have the social, educational, and medical services the state provides adequately funded. I feel the revenue sharing bill was to allow the states the responsibility for social services that the federal government would no longer carry, not to lower taxes." And I could not express better, if I had written this letter myself, the feeling as a taxpayer, and I, too, am a taxpayer in this state, and I am one of the members of the Appropriations Committee and I feel this Committee has worked long and hard and has adequately made wise decisions. I would like to see those decisions discussed on this Legislative floor.