

April 4, 1979

LB 285

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak, do you want the amendment read?

CLERK: (Read Dworak amendment found on page 1204 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, this amendment does not drastically change the intent of the committee amendments. In fact, this amendment solves the problem, in my opinion, that we have in the committee amendments in the area of growth. The way the committee amendments read now and the way it is in front of this body now, if any political subdivision regardless of whether it is the Natural Resource District, whether it is the county, whether it is the city, whether it is the school, whomever, if that board estimates or anticipates a 1% or 2% growth in population, then their lid automatically goes up to 8 or 9%. Now I think this is too much of a liberalization in the area of growth. I don't think budgets necessarily need to be increased exactly proportionately to the amount of increase in population. Just as I also probably could accept the argument that if populations or memberships or enrollments decreased 1 or 2%, budgets could automatically be reduced by that amount. So what this does is put in a 7% cushion on growth. In other words the growth would have to exceed 7% before there would be any liberalization of the lid. After growth reached 7% or 8% then they could increase the lid by that additional percentage point but if growth increased just 2%, then the 7% lid holds. I think we need to make some liberalizations in this lid law. I am saying that as one of the introducers of the lid bill last year of LB 1. I am taking full responsibility and accountability for that and I think that probably we have that too tight in light of inflation and everything else. But I think this is a reasonable compromise, a reasonable middle ground. I think this makes a lot of sense but I also am going to urge this body not to try and pass something that looks a like lid, that looks like it is an attempting to restrict taxes, that looks like it is something to control spending but, in fact, isn't and I think unless we tighten this section up that is essentially what we are going to end up doing. So I would strongly urge the adoption of this amendment. I would be glad to answer any questions if anybody has any questions concerning this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Now the lights were all on with regard to the committee amendment. I am going to call in that order and see if you still want to speak to the amendment to the committee amendment. Senator Hefner, do you wish to speak...