

May 4, 1979

LB 585

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, first of all, I oppose Senator Keyes' amendment. I hope you listened very carefully to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I am not going to repeat what he said but it seems to me that you have two choices when you vote. The Appropriations Committee spent long hours going over what the forecast and what we would use as a base. We did take the conservative approach with all the economic forecasts as were presented. So when you vote, you will either vote, I think, as the suggestion of the Appropriations Committee and stay with them or you are going to vote on what you think is the economic forecast. I hope that we are wrong. I hope that the Appropriations Committee made an error but if we are wrong, if we are right and you are wrong in making your own economic forecast, it is going to trigger a sales-income tax. There is no question. This happened previously since I have been down here. We lowered the forecast and the reserve and what did it do? You know what it did. It kicked off a sales-income tax. If you want to feel responsible in the gamble that you take for doing this, that is certainly your prerogative but, remember, the Appropriations Committee did spend a lot of study and research on this exact same problem.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell. Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Chair. Mr. Speaker, a bill that is at the bottom of consent file, is there any chance that this bill will pass? I am speaking about LB 44, the bill that failed to be considered yesterday, the food tax credit bill increase.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I can't give you a definite opinion but I would say the odds were against it because we have to...what I am going to ask the Legislature in a few moments is to give me some determination of today's schedule. I would like to hold us over until two o'clock and work especially on Select File and get the rest of the appropriation bills off and then adjourn. We have got to get Select File off before we go back to consent. I would think that those at the bottom of consent have an uphill fight. That is all I can...part of it depends upon the amount of time the Legislature is willing to work to get the bills advanced and less time for debate. That is up to the body.

SENATOR MARESH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I think that has a bearing on this amendment. A question of Senator Keyes.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Keyes, do you yield?