

May 8, 1979

LB 594

green at the appropriations and how this works, I might want to ask Senator Warner some questions. I guess I look at this as trying to put a jigsaw puzzle together and make it palatable at least to the Governor and, of course, being interested in 138 and probably disagreeing with you, perhaps, and others that 138 is a county expense, I feel which is a state expense, I think that is what we are talking about and who is going to pay it and what year. I guess it is difficult for me to make a decision and I would guess it would be for other members of the Legislature to vote up or down these certain projects that are in the budget or in the appropriations now or have been or will be without knowing exactly where we are at. Could you help me? Are you assuming 138 is going to pass when you make these...or are we voting on something that probably we should be voting on all in one lump project?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Kahle, obviously it would be much easier...it is difficult for the Legislature obviously as you are pointing out to arrive at a priority by the necessity of the way we much consider alternatives. The 80-81, not the current budget, but 80-81, if you accept the 7% limit, and everything I am saying is tied to a 7% limitation. It may or may not have an impact on rates. That depends upon the economy. But if you want to stay within 7%, then all of these issues which have second year impacts, you know, cannot be handled. We have to pick and choose and there are other options and I want to point out that the Appropriations Committee discussed this at length and it was their feeling in the case of capital construction that this additional \$5 million which this amendment would take out, next year, you know, there were alternatives to handle it and there are alternatives as there always are. I guess what I am really trying to test is whether or not the body wants to stay within the 7% limitation and establish that year after year. If we don't, that is a totally different ball game. My comments are restricted totally to trying to stay within that limitation and I am not against any of the remarks. It is just that everything cannot be done.

SENATOR KAHLE: Thank you, Senator Warner. I think what we need to look at here is whose face we are trying to save and 138 comes into this and I am sure this is not exactly the amendment although it has been mentioned. We can save the state's face all right by not voting in 138 and then voting in some of the other projects but that puts the same problem out on the counties who have not the facilities and the options that we have at the state to collect this money. So I think I would be remiss if I didn't speak about 138 with