

January 28, 1980

LB 499

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the amendment sounds complicated but really it is very simple. Basically with regard to the Visitors Committee, at this time the bill provides for a five member Visitors Committee, three of whom are appointed from a list of eight persons submitted by the lodging industry and two members are appointed from a list of five persons submitted by the area Chamber of Commerce. What my amendment does would simply make that provision read as follows: "The committee shall consist of five members appointed by the governing board of the county. Two members of the committee shall be in the hotel industry." I have a lot of problems with this kind of legislation but I think I am willing to go along and try to promote tourism in the state with this mechanism, but at the same time that we are doing that, I think that the concept of tourism and the types of things that should be promoted in the community should be decided in as broad based manner as possible. I can see having a couple members of the lodging or the hotel industry on the committee but I think that the county commissioners should have more latitude and more freedom, more flexibility, to choose other members from the public, other members of the county, to be on that committee to get input as to the type of tourism that will be beneficial to the community as a whole. You know it may well be that the type of tourism that a small segment of the community is interested in may not have great appeal for the community as a whole and I think there has to be some relationship and some working together on this Visitors Committee and I think that predominantly the public should be the most represented on this committee and not one segment of one particular industry, and for that reason I am suggesting that the Board of County Commissioners be given the latitude to choose three of those five members in whatever manner they see fit.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: A question of Senator Beutler.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler, will you respond?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator Beutler, the committee, the local committee will be comprised of how many people?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Five people.