

February 4, 1980

LB 615, 696

I have an amendment being prepared on that.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, I think that is an excellent idea. I know the Brand Board also has a bill in that would increase their mileage. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, you can put down in your file that 615 will be heard on next Monday as a Special Order, forty-five minutes. The next bill, where is Senator Nichol? LB 696.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 696, read title. The bill was read on January 10 of this year. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by Senator Nichol's Judiciary Committee.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, there are several amendments for those of you who are interested that I would like to draw your attention to. For the past couple of years the Judiciary Committee has used a single bill to make modifications within the new Criminal Code. The majority of these changes have been procedural in nature. Some have been substantive. LB 696 is the bill introduced by the Judiciary Committee this year to be used for such changes. The original bill is a technical provision consolidating two existing statutes regarding fleeing to avoid arrest. The committee added three amendments to the original bill. Last year Senator Schmit introduced a bill increasing penalties for certain drug violations. Because of technical problems with the bill, it was necessary to indefinitely postpone Senator Schmit's bill with the understanding that those provisions would be studied over the interim by the Judiciary Committee. Pursuant to LR 176 on drug laws, the Judiciary Committee studied proposed changes similar to those in Senator Schmit's bill. As an outgrowth of the committee study of drug laws, two amendments were added to 696 this year. The first amendment would establish a category of drugs known as exceptionally hazardous drugs. This category includes narcotics, angel dust and the three most widely abused barbituates. The abuse of such drugs carries a greater risk of psychological and physiological damage to the user than does the abuse of other controlled substances. The penalty for possession of these drugs have not been increased, however, and the penalty for dealing in such drugs have been increased substantially. The penalty range