

April 2, 1980

LB 609

is, Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers, do you wish to speak to the motion? The motion is the adoption of the Johnson amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and Senator Keyes, I think last Sunday was Palm Sunday and you are right, they were saying Hosanna when he rode into the city on a jackass but less than a week later they were hollering, crucify him, and carried it out so we know how people do and how they change but in a situation that this state and the country is facing, I think Senator Johnson's amendment is right on the money. Senator Murphy, educators and nobody else made a promise for me. I have been opposed to the concept of the lid from the beginning. I had gotten into that discussion on the lids for just a very small portion of it because I thought it was a waste of time. I think it was a highly political issue and that is what it is now, but the whole country, the state, even this Legislature are all floundering. There is a lack of will. There is a lack of leadership. There is a lack of dedication to the principles of good government. We are here to make decisions even if they are difficult and unpopular but those decisions are not made and I don't hear the reason for not making them being that they are unwise. It is that it is not politically feasible or expedient. If the people want to circulate a petition to alter the Constitution, that is not going to change my attitude toward my responsibility, Senator Murphy. One time Senator Venditte said that if the people of this state could vote I would be the first legislator they would vote out of this Legislature. That, of course, applies to people who don't know me. The people who know me will sentence me to the Legislature as long as I am willing to consent to being tortured, abused, and misused in that fashion, but because I love those people so much, Senator Venditte, I am willing to be like a sacrificial lamb, going to the slaughter, Senator Kelly, therefore being as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves, Senator Keyes, but nevertheless as legislators. As legislators we should decide and realize that at some point we are either voluntarily going to make the right decision or we are going to be forced into it. There is no way that anybody could get me to stand on this floor and as much as I love the common people, Senator Murphy, because I am one of them, I will never say that their uninformed judgment is as valid as mine. If ignorance is what I came here to reflect, I would not study. I would not spend hours and hours down here in my office when other people can go play with the lobbyists. I don't have the luxury of a lot of people

9572