

April 8, 1980

LB 820

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up. Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I would like to support the Beutler amendment and speak about two issues. One is the sunset process, the other is the use of legislative time. It seems a long time ago that this Legislature rallied itself behind the sunset cause, passed a bill decrying to the public that, by golly, we were going to end agencies, we were going to save dollars, we were going to change government with this thing called sunset. Well, it turned out that we didn't abolish many agencies and we realize that and we admit it. Well maybe we didn't abolish any agencies but by golly, we give them a thorough review. We spend hours looking at them. We have staff do a report. That report goes to the Appropriations Committee and the pore over it and people come and testify and the Appropriations Committee makes recommendations and then the standing committee hears those recommendations and there is more testimony and then a bill is drafted and it is introduced and there is another hearing and that is sent out and, by golly, we are going to get some accountability and we are going to get some change. Maybe the sunset process won't abolish an agency but, by golly, we are going to make them accountable. We are going to update them. We are going to modernize them and that is the sunset process until it comes to General File and then suddenly people say, we don't have enough time. We can't consider these issues. Oh, maybe they were in a study and maybe the Appropriations Committee talked about them and maybe they recommended them and maybe the Public Works Committee considered those in hearing and maybe the Public Works Committee recommended those but there is only five days left and we got to continue this agency. Let's forget about the merits and let's forget about the study and let's forget about the time the Appropriations Committee spent and let's forget about the time the Public Works Committee spent and let's forget about the tens of thousands of dollars of staff time and legislative time and report time spent developing these proposals. We've got to get this bill through. Let's not listen to any merits. If this body does not feel the sunset process is worth its time on General File, I have one request. Please don't ask those of us in the Appropriations Committee and those of us in the standing committees to spend our time with it. If you don't want to pay attention to the sunset process, if you don't want to pay any attention to the recommendations, please put an amendment on 820 to abolish the sunset process entirely. We are not sunseting agencies and now we are not even listening to any reforms. All we are really doing is recertifying the existence of an agency and we really don't need to