

April 18, 1980

LB 996

letters. By transposing them, you not only arrive at two different words but two different functions. Our vote as a Legislature in enacting laws is affirmative. The veto of the Governor is a negative. His job, he feels, when he vetoes is to erase the affirmative action that the Legislature placed. I wouldn't be in a position of saying, unless I really believe I should, that I will either vote to override every veto or not vote to override any of them. When we get to a certain issue, there is a reason why I am not going to vote to override, and it relates to the University, but on these other matters each one I will consider on its merits. On this first one, I will vote to override, and I think the reason that the Legislature is being dealt with in the way that it has been is because of the way we have allowed the Governor to walk over the Legislature. He walks in when he chooses in violation of our rules, and the Senators jump up and praise him for it and say how happy they are to have him over here violating the rules. Then he promises to get certain bills back to us by today with a veto or word that he has signed the bills. That has not been done. So I see developing here a situation where not only the Governor but some of the functionaries in his office don't have much regard for the Legislature or what it does. And I think it would be making a bad situation even worse if we would adopt the philosophy that Senator DeCamp, for whatever reasons, has expounded here this morning. I don't think we should say that we will not vote to override certain matters in order to fix the Governor. Our job, I don't think when we are dealing with overrides is to fix the Governor. Our job remains the same as it was when we originally considered the legislation. If it was considered valid at the time we voted affirmatively, it should continue to be valid even though the Governor vetoes it...even though he vetoes. His veto ought not to change our principles or our mind. Most of these budget bills had some degree of debate and most of them contained propositions that every member had some interest in, if each member was not interested in every proposition in each one of these bills. I think a good case has been made for an override of the Governor's veto in LB 996 and I will vote that way. As each one of these others comes up, I will consider each one and decide how I am going to vote. But I will tell you right now, when I get to 999 I will vote the same way on the override that I voted on the original bill and my vote was negative on the bill so it will be negative on the override. These other matters are different.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis.

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