

April 18, 1980

LB 996

SENATOR LEWIS: I move the previous question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no. Record the vote.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate is ceased. Senator Warner, do you want to close on the motion?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the real issue for me personally in this is that three years ago I was very much involved in what the Appropriations Committee was very much involved and the Legislature approved LB 946. 946 was the legislation that set up the salary survey, and it was my thought at that time that it was not only politically defensible but also right that employees' salaries, state employees' salaries ought to be compatible, at least compatible, not competitive, but at least compatible with the private sector in the salary market, and that policy it seems to me is still a valid one. If it's not valid then I don't think we will be among the first to repeal it because it is a useless gesture and we will have to find some other approach. But I think it is the most defensible policy that you could have and I would hope that the body would sustain the action that the previous Legislature took in the enactment of 946, and I would also comment on the separation of power. I think what I heard expressed was not a separation but rather the dominance of the Legislature by the Executive Branch, and I think that would be a very undesirable approach and I quite concur with those who say the Legislature, and I have certainly made this speech many times in the last eighteen years...I certainly think the Legislature should do what a majority of its members feel, or 30, when that is constitutionally required, and that should be the only measurement that we each use. Finally, I would say that there can be some criticism of what we are approaching because every agency is not going to come out exactly the same, but on the other hand that is also true if we don't override the veto. There were at least five agencies that were not reduced at all and there was perhaps justification for that in the minds of the Governor because he wanted the money used for some other purpose than salaries perhaps, but then for the last there is, no matter how we go, whether we do or do not, there will be some who will say, well, everybody wasn't quite treated fairly and that may well be, but I think what we are proposing is the