

March 27, 1981

LB 535

expressed obligations in the past. That would be eliminated because if it becomes an appropriation it still can be changed by each session of the Legislature upwards or down just as it is now with the same number of votes and I would urge that the amendment be advanced and adopted because its effect is solely, in my opinion, is solely one of giving the Legislature better management of the policies they want implemented than what is available to us now under the Constitution.

PRESIDENT: Amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Koch moves to amend the bill, "to strike the new language on page 2, lines 6 and 7, and reinsert the stricken language."

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, it is seldom I disagree with Senator Warner who knows the finances of this state much better than I do and most of us in this body but oftentimes when I speak to people they ask me one question. Why isn't government more efficient in their operation and why can't they operate like the private sector? Now Senator Warner might be able to argue against this amendment and I hope he does if he feels like he wants to. When you get down to operating the state, particularly in a time of change such as we witness each year, I can't understand why we want to go to sort of a biennial budgeting operation even though we still maintain the option of the even numbered years in making adjustments to the budget. Large businesses I am sure, do not establish biennial budgets. The businesses I am in we establish annual budgets and oftentimes we miss our mark but it is always a pretty good guideline to us. I know the Appropriation Committee spends hours and hours and hours in looking at dollars and programs and agencies and I empathize with them because that has to be a tedious job. That is one reason I would never seek the Appropriations Committee position but there are those in here who seek it because it does have stature and you do have an awful lot to say about other agencies and legislation. Look over in Final Reading. Everything stops there if it has got an A bill with it and that lives at the mercy of the Appropriations Committee because we try to balance or try to stay within some kind of limitation. I just believe that this body has to stay with an annual function of budgeting even though we may have the option of changing it every other year because if we want to move to a biennial session I think this may be the first step. Then this may be the step towards that meeting every two years and I strongly believe that is what has happened to this country over the