

May 22, 1981

LB 316, 322

SPEAKER MARVEL: The bill is declared passed on Final Reading. Next bill, LB 322.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion. Senator Beutler would move to return LB 322 to Select File for specific amendment and the amendment would be, Mr. President, (Read Beutler amendment found on page 2211, Legislative Journal).

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I will be quick about this but it is one of the things I wanted to bring up because I think my original idea was to file a kill motion on the bill but I would at least like to amend it to make the sending out of this information by the Department of Agriculture at...to be done only if the newspapers request the information. The reason that I am bringing this small bill up is because I think that although it is a small bill it involves a new principle that I don't think we want to get into the business of enacting. It is requiring the Department of Agriculture to send out on a monthly basis to each newspaper in the state certain information about a certain subject. Now we have required in our law in the past that certain agencies compile certain types of information and make it available, but to my knowledge, I don't know of anywhere in the law that we have to date required that a department send out information on a monthly basis to every newspaper in the state. And there are two hundred and some newspapers in the state and we are having this information compiled and sent out on a monthly basis, regular basis, and we don't even know how many of those newspapers will even bother to print it. So we are getting into the business of printing information that somebody may or may not use and which is being sent to over two hundred different places. This is a cost to government and the benefit of it is dubious at best I think and the precedent of starting this type of procedure I think is something we should be very careful about and obviously we could get into many agencies putting out many different kinds of information that different ones of us are interested in and increasing the cost of government significantly for a purpose that I don't really think is a legitimate purpose of government. But rather than asking you to kill the bill, all I am asking you to do is to allow the Department of Agriculture to do it when a newspaper request that it be done, when they want the information, and not necessarily sending that information out mandatorily every month whether they want it or not, but let's see if Mikay likes it first. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows and then Senter Nichol.