

the Legislative Journal.) That will be laid over, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Number 753.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 753 was introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor. (Read.) The bill was read on January 11. It was referred to the Revenue Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are Revenue Committee amendments pending.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Carsten, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, here again is another one of the Governor's bills that was introduced to add four cents in the cigarette tax. We did advance the bill to the floor with the committee amendment to increase cigarettes two cents. Following that, March 10 a communication and visit from the Governor, we met again and voted to accept the Governor's original recommendation. So in light of that I would move that the committee amendments be rejected and that the bill then would remain in its original form. I would so move, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Landis, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I am going to support the committee amendments and I am going to support 753 but I am going to do so with some reluctance and I want to talk to you about the reason for that. We just had the corporate tax increase and I supported wholeheartedly the language struck by the committee for exactly the reason that Senator Johnson indicated. LB 760 restored a balance that has always been there but because of recent conditions stemming from the mid-70s that balance in the equitable taxation of various parts of our economy has gradually fallen by the wayside and that situation, corporations in Nebraska, are the forty-fourth lowest in tax burden in the nation, whereas the general public in Nebraska suffers under about a twenty-fifth lowest burden of taxation and for property taxes have the tenth highest. So one can come to the conclusion that corporations in Nebraska have enjoyed a very low rate of taxation considering other parts of the tax paying public. This is not true with cigarette smokers in the State of Nebraska. LB 753 is not the restoration of some long existing fairness or equitable standard. 753 is here because we need money and we need it now. It is before us because we have to look to new revenue sources because of existing conditions which have come upon us in only the last year. You will see on your desks this piece of paper which I had passed out indicating the rates of taxation now enjoyed in Nebraska and the surrounding states on taxation. I had to alter it because