

March 30, 1982

LB 408

on to the Legislature. I went along with it. Now you are whistling in the wind if you are adding another hour on so you can have another half a dozen amendments. It is just a matter of trying to run out the clock. If that is the intention, that is what you will see happen if the motion to suspend the rules is defeated. Senator Beutler and Senator Cullan say they have very sincere amendments and Senator Wesely, and maybe they do, but let's pull back the covers, let's open up and talk truth. Okay, here it comes. Now this is a bill that affects the trucking industry. I mean it affects them big. They want to have some testing and, Senator, it is testing, and they want to prove that this isn't the big bugaboo everybody claims and a bill that was previously opposed by the Highway Department is now supporting. Okay, who is on the other side? The people that should be on the other side, the representatives of the railroads, Senator Wesely, Senator Cullan, and more power to them, by golly, more power to them. They should represent the railroads. That is where they live. That is who their constituency is. That is who is in their territory. But for goodness sake let's not pretend that somehow Senator Wesely and Senator Cullan have developed overnight this incredible concern about the safety of truckers and the highways and that the railroads, who they are getting all their information from, and quite properly so, I don't contest that, that the railroads have been born again as truckers because that is what it is all about, the railroads versus the trucking industry. Now you see I don't have railroads in my district. I have to rely upon trucks. I have counties where there has never been a railroad and I have railroads that couldn't pass in any other state or country as railroads and so I want to look to the future, two, and five, and seven, and ten years, and start developing some things that develop our road industry. I wanted to build roads. I wanted to build a north-south interstate. I wanted to repair our existing roads with a bond program. Well, that was like throwing a...you know what. Anyway, it didn't go anywhere. But at least I want to take the first step in getting some testing. We know we can save about 30% on energy to haul the same quantity, and all this stuff about weight, that is controlled by the feds, so let's not throw that one out but let's get down to the core of it, it is the railroad versus the truckers, and I guess it depends on which side you are going to settle down on, and I admire, and I applaud, and I encourage Senator Cullan and Senator Wesely to do everything they can on behalf of the people they are representing very strongly on this which is the railroads. I don't think anybody in here would deny that including them but that is what it is. It is a railroad versus the trucking industry fight. So I say we know what the fight is. You know what the issue

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