

April 1, 1982

LB 761

without having to resort to predictions or economic forecasts and I believe more realistically. State employees have consistently shared the benefits of plush economic years in the past and I believe it is fair to ask them to share just a bit of frugality during this period of uncertainty. Let's make one thing abundantly clear. This is not freezing in a zero increase for state employees, instead it is an attempt to address a problem after sufficient additional funding availability is known. I submit to you that our state economy is only sick, not dead. The possibility, and I emphasize the word "possibility" is very real, the state employees will eventually fare better under this proposal. With that, Mr. President, I would move the adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely, we have got an amendment to that, perhaps you would want to speak to that. Let's take the amendment first.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Koch and Wiitala would move to amend the Fenger amendment. (Read the Koch-Wiitala amendment.)

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, in case you don't know what this amendment is about, it hits right at the heart of Senator Fenger's District. The Bellevue Public Schools are the recipient of considerable amounts of impounded monies. They are called, "Impact Aid LB 874" to the extent that it makes up 30 percent of their budget. If this amendment is adopted, it would be equal to Senator Fenger's amendment because these employees of the Bellevue Public School system would certainly suffer tremendously, in fact, there would be a great deal of what we call RIF, riffing, reduction in force. I offer this as sort of a joke. It is April Fool's Day and we should have some fun. But the point is, if you want to get down and you want to penalize people, most of all penalize state employees who oftentimes make us look better than we really are, then we are going to adopt Senator Fenger's amendment. I would hope we would withdraw that in the name of April Fool's Day because yesterday when we went through the 375 on the inspection sticker, I had a hunch that we were going to pick it up someplace. Now if I had my choice, rather than penalize the state employees, I will put the money back in the surtax for the inspection sticker.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Yes.

9918