

April 7, 1982

LB 127, 127A, 605, 755,  
756,757

CLERK: Mr. President, I have another motion.

PRESIDENT: Oh, another motion on this bill, all right.  
Read the motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, if I may right before that. Your Enrolling Clerk has presented to the Governor for his approval the bills that were read on Final Reading yesterday. (See page 1763 regarding LBs 127, 127A, 605, 755 and 756 in the Legislative Journal.)

I have a supplement to an Attorney General's Opinion addressed to Senator Beutler. That will be inserted in the Journal. (See page 1764 of the Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Newell would now move to return LB 757 to Select File for a specific amendment, that amendment being to eliminate the State Board of Equalization's authority to set the sales and income tax rates.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: I won't speak long if I could have some silence. Thank you, that's not a bad deal. The proposal that I am offering this Legislature is one of those that you might call a...to use a colloquialism, a "fess up" amendment, and that is simply that it will strike the State Board of Equalization's Authority to set sales and income tax rates. We would have to bring 757 back one more time to set the income tax rate after this amendment is passed but I don't think that is any great problem. I think then we have a philosophically reasonable way of explaining this to the public. We can take this out of all of the politics and so forth and have the Legislature do what 49 other states do and that is set the sales and income tax rates. I think it would be very responsible. It would help the public understand just exactly who creates the problem. It is not only the Legislature, it is also the Executive, but at least places that authority between the Legislature and the Executive Branch and not solely in the Executive Branch. That way we won't have these kinds of election year situations when we have a real fiscal crisis. I would hope this body would accept this amendment. It is the right and philosophically correct thing to do.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner. Okay. The Chair recognizes Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, I support the Newell amendment. I think the situation over the last year and the failure