

Senator Landis, then Senator Hefner.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, LB 280 is as good as the proponents of the bill are going to get. That is what the Beutler amendment tells us. And for those of us who thought perhaps that these were high increases, we got them delayed until we thought that they then made sense and it was a well crafted and fair compromise. With respect to the issue of whether or not this body should be apprised of that compromise or kept in the dark, I think we do very well to let the body know what the understandings were. I find myself chagrined to learn later that there were understandings about some bill and that I can't get action out of a committee or the body is recalcitrant because of some bargain that was made that I never heard about. It seems to me we have acted eminently fairly to tell everyone what the nature of this negotiated settlement is and for those of us who think that the Legislature can operate without negotiations, without compromises, without understandings and trying to find middle ground and those compromises taking sometimes more than one bill or one year to effect, I have illustrated an annotated copy of Alice in Wonderland up in my office and I would be happy to have you spend the rest of the day looking that over too because that is the way we work. If anything, we have been more forthright by making everyone aware of the nature of the arrangements that were struck between two warring factions and how they could meld their various interests to effectuate fairer taxes and more services for the needs of people who need it. I think the amendment and the bill are in good shape. I support them. And I, by the way, support bringing to the floor the nature of the obligations and understandings that are made so everyone knows it. I think that helps us. It doesn't hinder us.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, I call the question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record. I appreciate your promptness in responding.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.