

this issue. I tend to believe that if you and I made the collective decision this month...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...to increase state aid knowing that we would automatically...we would have to increase sales and income tax rates, that once we had done that, we would see the rotunda filled with the traditional budget lobbyists to begin to nip away at our state aid increases so that they could take more money back to the institutions that they love and represent so well. We might also see the tax base expansion measures fail. So it is important, in my view, that we honor the Governor's request, the Governor being the second house, we being the conference at this juncture, that we accept the reorganizational terms of 662, that we strip out the financing terms of 662 and that we again meet collegially in August, wrestle through financing, this time having the Governor's active input and participation in coming to the final conclusion, the final conclusion, of this long chapter of school finance and state aid. It is doable and it will be done. We are simply delaying the true resolution of the issue by a few months. I support the amendment and I would ask you to do the same.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Cal Carsten and then Senator Hefner.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to the amendment this morning. I want to repeat a phrase to you that has been used on this floor several times in the years since I have been here, and I think this morning it is extremely appropriate. I think you can recall when we first started addressing LB 662 that I got up on this floor and told you that you had two subject matters in that bill and that, in my opinion, one was trying to camouflage the other. I thought that it was a dangerous procedure, not that I was against the funding...increased funding for education because I am not. I have always supported that which I thought was reasonable and appropriate. But, I told you so and I hate to say that I did, but I did. I think this morning you find yourselves in that position. Let me address a couple of remarks that Senator Johnson has just made. Two house legislature. We do not have a two house legislature. We have a one house. We are the legislative