

May 22, 1985

LB 722

CLERK: I have another amendment.

PRESIDENT: Another amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the Beutler amendment. (Wesely amendment appears on page 2460 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The call of the house is raised. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. President, members, Pat, this is the amendment which would strike the Beutler exclusion amendment and put back in two other exclusions. Is that right?

CLERK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. I know we just got done with a big vote and everybody is kind of interested in what's going on right now, but let me raise an issue once again for you. I hope Senator Hannibal and some other people will talk to this. I think we made a major mistake by adopting the Beutler amendment with the list of exclusions which he had. I again am asking you to strike that amendment but to allow for two exclusions on that list which I think are justified, but I cannot justify the other exclusions from this across the board cut that Senator Beutler has proposed. I think if you're going to have an across the board cut you make it as broad a base in which you cut from as possible or you're left open to the charge of favoritism or unfairness. Now if you go back to your districts and you say, look, I thought the best thing to do was to have an across the board cut and then they say, yeah, well that's fine except you didn't include corrections, you didn't include the regional centers, you didn't include mental retardation, you didn't include this and you didn't include that. Now how are you going to go back and explain that? What is your justification? Have we heard yet anybody get up here and one by one through the exclusions that are included here and give a justification for why they ought not to be included in this budget cut? And I have never heard anybody get up and give adequate explanation. I've been back to the fiscal office saying is there a reason why these people should not be included and they cannot give me a reason and the only