

March 17, 1971

PRESIDENT: We'll take up the discussion of LB854.

CLERK: Read title. LB 854

SENATOR CARPENTER: This bill is a highly technical bill. There was an unusually large number of people who were both for and against it at the committee hearing before the Government Committee. The Committee took the rather unusual position that these people should leave the hearing room which they did and gather in another room and to come back with a compromise that will meet the acceptability of all there before we adjourned that afternoon. As far as I know the amendment meets with the approval of everybody that was interested in this highly explosive issue of explosives. I move that the amendment be adopted.

PRESIDENT: Motion is to adopt the committee amendments. Is there need for further discussion? All those in favor of the committee amendments say aye, opposed say no. The ayes have it. The amendments are adopted. Senator Waldo.

SENATOR WALDO: I move that LB854 be advanced to E & R for initial. My interest in this legislation started a year ago when a couple of young fellows tried to fire bomb the Student Union and they were almost successful. I felt that this Legislature would not be very much inclined to appropriate anymore money for any capital improvements on the University campus if some of these criminals got away with destroying some of the buildings. I got checking and as I recall the most that these two fellows could have been penalized, if they had been convicted was about two years, which means that they would only have been out of circulation a few months, probably less than a year. We are in an unusual situation. These things weren't dreamed of five or ten years ago. I saw the same things happen in South America when I took a group of agricultural people down there some 8 years ago. I couldn't believe that that could happen here in the United States. But we've got exactly the same pattern that we saw down there. After this happened last summer, I asked the bill drafter to draw a bill that would stiffen the penalties for those convicted of using explosives to destroy property or persons. I had the bill ready to introduce and I found out that the Crime Commission was also working on the same legislation. I agreed to hold my bill back and get their comprehensive bill covering this whole area which is designed to fit in with the federal regulations so that we would have real effective and sound piece of legislation. The bill was printed and after I circulated it, I found out that the Crime Commission had decided on a revision which accounts for the fact that this is a revised bill. As Senator Carpenter explained, we came to the hearing and the only real