

April 8, 1994

LB 991, 1087, 1136

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, rise to oppose the bracket motion, but I think we need to have a discussion on LB 1087, because as I've said repeatedly in the last few weeks, this is another big ticket item that I don't know what we're going to do about or how we're going to afford to do it. As I went home last night after our spending decisions were reinforced again and watched the Masters Tournament on TV, you know at Augusta it's kind of nice. There they don't have dues in that country club. What they do is the head greens keeper spends as much money as he wants, spends as much money as he wants and sends a bill to all of the members at the end of the year. That's kind of the way we're behaving in here. We spend as much money as we want only, unfortunately, we don't have to send the bill out till next year. It is not going to come back to haunt you until next year, and with the decisions on LB 991, on LB 1136, on down the road, you're leaving yourself a hole you can't get out of. And it is kind of like you are building Augusta, and you are going to pay for it next year. And I don't know, I guess that may be a way to run a golf course, but it is not a way to run a state. And I think it's another bill you have to look at, given the other decisions you've made, I don't know how you can also do this one. I am going to oppose the bracket motion. We need to discuss this bill, I think it is a legitimate tax policy, but if you want to not collect tax on things like this, and maybe if you won't want to collect tax on fertilizer, like I don't want to, you have to take something else out of the budget. It is that simple, but you can't spend the money you want to spend and not collect the taxes and expect it to balance out. That's where you've got a problem, and the fact is that I think we do need to look at our dues first, and decide how much we are going to spend. If we want to adjust our dues structure, our tax policy, that's fine, but when you adjust your dues policy, you also have to adjust on the spending side. We have not done that. We are not doing that, and for that reason, I mean, I don't know if 1087 is the bill, you are right, we are not collecting that tax now, but it is in the forecast. That is money that comes off the sheet if you pass the bill, and I am willing to do that, but you can't just, once again, say yes to the spending, say no to the taxes, and let somebody else solve the problem, or, worse yet, postpone it and try and solve it next year hoping something better happens. I don't think it is going to.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Moore. No further lights