

March 19, 1975

SENATOR MARVEL: Well, I would like...first of all, I am opposed to the raising of 202, and I will try to give you, as quickly as I can, reasons. I can understand why some of the counties are in trouble but I still think in 1975 we have got all kinds of financial problems and this is not the time to get into this procedure. I have one other point I would like to make and this has to do with the operation of this kind of a program. I disagree with Senator Kelly and he says the counties have nothing to do with the medicaid program. That is not quite true, as far as I am concerned. While there are state rules and regulations, we have a welfare system in this state which is county administered. The state puts up money. The federal government puts up money but the county, in the final analysis, administers the program and if they administer the program, I think it is much more effective if they have a financial input into it. For that reason plus the financial bind that we are in now, I do not think this is the year to attempt to go into this program and in answer to Senator Syas, I am not yet in a position of determining, first of all, I haven't seen the bills that have come out of the Revenue Committee and I am not in a position yet to determine what the appropriations total is going to be. We are trying as best we can in this week to get as much of this out as possible but the clues are not there yet. By next week, we may have answers in regard to the revenue projections, if this was your question, but I oppose raising 202.

PRESIDENT: Senator Skarda.

SENATOR SKARDA: Mr. President, I would like to direct a question to the chairman of the Revenue Committee, of which I am a member, also, Senator Carsten. Senator Carsten, you and I both heard a lot of testimony last week and particularly yesterday in reference what the 13%, the income tax increase bill that we put out would do. Let me ask you a specific question, will it cover 202 as it is proposed or will it not? The increase.

SENATOR CARSTEN: No, Senator Skarda, my understanding, and I think yours was too, that the 13% only covers the amounts that were recommended in the Governor's budget to the Legislature, which would not include 202.

PRESIDENT: Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, I speak here this morning in agreement with Senator, from Big Springs, Nebraska, whom has very eloquently twice taken to the floor and has asked the Legislators to think in their own minds what they are doing when they help raise this bill from the ashes. All they are doing is putting it on the Board and they are bracketing and they are hoping that the Legislature, at some future time, might be in a good mood in which they will see for the next five years an encumbrance of ten million dollars so that a future Legislature, from a year or two from now, will have this on their back and it will come to the tune of ten million dollars at the end of five years and it must be made up from the income and the sales tax and so I hope that the Legislature today will follow through with what it did a week ago and will see that this bill never raises its ugly head above the dimensions that