

May 20, 1975

SENATOR MAHONEY: I think, Mr. President, we can make this very brief. I think I can just sum it up by saying that this has been a budget that we proposed, that placed us in an area of responsibility, in which we pin-pointed and we designated definitely certain services that were required for the Legislative Council budget. It was worked on in a very conservative manner, and a manner in which this Legislature, as the Governor has mentioned in his budget 1970 we working out of cardboard boxes. In 1970 we had four Senators to a secretary. In 1970 we had one researcher for the whole Legislature. In 1970 we did not give the proper service, or the proper thinking, or the proper analysis of these bills. This is 1976. We have done everything possible to return back to the State Treasury those monies that we would reappropriate each year. Consequently we are at this point now where if we were to give Nebraskans that type of government in which we can honestly say to ourselves that we have looked at each and every one of these bills, that we've had the experts check on them, this budget is very modest. This particular bill that the Governor sent us back should be overridden and we should do it right now.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, not only should this veto be overridden, the Governor should be overrun. This is one of the most petty, small-minded, jackassish things I have seen. Now, Charles Dickens was considered a respectable, decent, literary man. If he can say the law is an ass, I can say in this instance the one whose job it is to enforce the law is definitely an ass! Now, a person can do actions which are foolish, but they can be tinged with such foolishness that the one who places the act has to be considered a fool. Now the Governor does not control the pursestrings. I'm deliberately, I'm deliberately I tell you, dealing with this veto on the level that it ought to be dealt with. Senator Mahoney dignified it by taking it seriously and discussing this veto as though it related to the rationale act of the thinking, intelligent, responsible individual; but the Governor has looked in the mirror so long and seen so many despicable and unsatisfactory characteristics in himself. He has been able, in the past, to point to the Legislature and project onto the Legislature the things he feels about himself that he has gone totally haywire in his attempt to seek higher office. Now he has put into practice all of the pettiness, all of the vindictiveness, all of the small-mindedness that can be brought together in one disordered personality. Now gentlemen and Senator Marsh, before any of you think that I'm being unreasonable and irrational myself by putting these kind of words together, read his veto message on LB 417 where he accused the Fiscal Staff of deception. He talked about gross exaggerations, and other kind of words that went beyond the standpoint of merely disagreeing with the position that the Legislature had taken. He became intensely personal, he attacked peoples morality, their veracity and the Legislatures' integrity. So I don't want you to think that the Governors small-minded action has angered me to such a point that I'm speaking without thinking. I understand very well the words that I've uttered.