

March 31, 1983

LB 624

SENATOR MARSH: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I stand to give my strong support to the amended version of LB 624. We need to be making this positive step forward. It is not something that will happen overnight. It takes planning. It takes time to get this done, but we need to get started as soon as possible and I commend Senator Don Wesely for his work in this area. We all should be very grateful for his leadership. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Is there any further discussion on LB 624? Senator Beyer.

SENATOR BEYER: I would have a question of Senator Wesely, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely and Senator Beyer.

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR BEYER: Senator Wesely, a lot of our schools have already done this out of their budgets without exceeding the 7 percent. Is this going to be in one sense of the word penalizing them, or is this a one-time situation for the schools that haven't done it to exceed that 7 percent? How does that figure in then to their next budget period of the 7 percent?

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, it is a separate assessment. It would fall off after three years is all they are allowed to do it and it would just be considered separately. The point is that some of the schools have taken some action but those are usually smaller projects. The big work, the big problems have yet to be addressed in some of these school districts that have already started, plus a lot of school districts have done nothing yet. This is just an option, Senator Beyer. If, for instance, they find like in Lincoln you have got a multimillion dollar problem and it is going to severely impact our budget situation, this says that if under those circumstances the local school board, local control, says that this is something they would like to try as an option, then they can have that option.

SENATOR BEYER: Well, I think our big schools in the Omaha area have done it without the option, and I think that Lincoln should have been able to do the same thing if this is strictly for Lincoln.

SENATOR WESELY: Now the big schools, you will have to, I