

April 26, 1983

LB 396

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I don't know, I have been kind of watching 396 go through and I was under the hope, I actually had hoped that the bill would not be read until closer to the end of the session when we knew what was going to happen with the lottery bill, but it is up today and I thought I had better do a little tinkering to make sure that we at least protect the mechanism for the homestead exemption, that is all.

SENATOR NEWELL: Let me just state then to the Johnson amendment, I'll support the Johnson amendment even though I think frankly we could probably do it on the lottery bill itself. As for Senator Cullan's arguments, I have always found them difficult to follow, but I have always wanted to make this point that he makes so enthusiastically, with great enthusiasm, it is a trite little point so I won't make it, but I always wanted to say, "who cares", you know, that is what I wanted to say. In terms of this whole issue I think frankly that the general homestead would probably be better off if it did wait for awhile and I would prefer if those sponsors of the general homestead wanted to hold it off until we see what the other debates are and keep it in the context of the overall financial situation of the state. Because what we are doing here is something that we talked about before, we are doing things in piecemeal. There is a lot of parts to this package that can be done one at a time and if 396 goes today then I think we ought to bring some other pieces up. Like to bring up the piece that reduces the collection fee because that adds \$5 million which we ought to know about when we're making some decisions about some other things. I think we probably ought to bring up the computer software question because that adds some money that would help us understand where we are going to be at when we make some other things and maybe 59 as the Governor suggested ought to be brought up so we know whether the sales tax is going to go anywhere or not. Maybe some of these other questions ought to be put in place as we are making these tough decisions because it all has impact on some other things. So I guess one of the things I would say this morning on this very important debate is that it would be helpful, I think, Mr. Speaker, if you and Senator Carsten and Senator Warner and maybe some other interested legislators sort of kind of scheduled some of these bills that are parts of the package so that we can find out just where we are going to be on them. I think that might be helpful as opposed to kind of letting them find their own high watermark as 396 has obviously done early on. With that in mind, I will support the Johnson amendment, and if it doesn't go anywhere, I'm not sure that it will greatly defer us from what we have

3908