

March 27, 1984

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but not 341 because I feel that is going too far, but this one I feel that we can put this on this year, then take it off another year. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Howard Peterson. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted on ceasing debate? Record the vote.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate is ceased. Senator DeCamp, do you wish to close?

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, this speech is the political suicide speech. I want to address all the questions raised. Senator Vickers, I did not say we needed another study. That is the last thing we need is another doggone study. This state is sinking under all the studies. What we need is some action restructuring the tax system. Now why have we not restructured the tax system? Because we have insisted on following the failed policies of the past and those failed policies of the past are the NSEA program. The greatest threat to education in this state has been the NSEA state aid proposal brought to us every year because it makes certain that the Legislature doesn't do anything itself. It always settles down to the same thing, another 15, 20, or 25 million that doesn't provide any real property tax relief because you can't do that until you restructure the tax system. If you really care about education, Senator Newell, Senator Beutler, Senator Vickers, you will do the things that need to be done and you will fess up and face up and that is you will develop your own policies, your own tax structure. You will deal with the issue instead of simply the NSEA 20 or 25 million every year. This is just throwing a cup of water on the fire. Now, has the system worked? Is it really a failed policy? You had better believe it. Senator Kahle and Senator Vickers keep saying, well, gosh, think what the property taxes would be if we hadn't done this. Gentlemen, in 1971 when I came here, property taxes were right around 1 percent to 1 1/4 percent of actual value on homes. They are 3 percent today and they are going up.

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