

March 29, 1984

LB 1128

would ask Senator Wagner to be recognized to describe to you the first proposed...the first part of the motion dealing with the Department of Education, the driver education aid.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wagner.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker and members, my part of this is to look at the driver's education and that is for \$1,300,000, but first of all let me tell you the reason I do this is because it goes back to 1981. It was February 11th and on the floor here I would like to read you a part of the testimony that day, part of the debate, and this is from Senator Koch to Senator Warner. He is talking about it, and I quote, "With the help of Senator Warner and his staff, we have drafted this amendment and very basically what this amendment does...and very basically the amendment does and it takes away the earmarking fund and goes forward with the driver's education fund and the money that is derived from the license goes directly to the general fund and then this appropriation"...and I want to quote...it says "annually, annually to the Department...will be appropriated annually to the Department of Education", and this is where I come from and it was on this floor here we reached an agreement. That bill was LB 207. We essentially said we will dissolve that fund and in turn we will increase that driver's license fee from \$7 to \$10 and that in turn will take care of basically the driver's education fund. Last year I was involved in the override, and as long as that stays there like that, I suppose I would come from that area. Now last year there was a total of 309,000 driver's licenses which amounted to about \$900,000. And I just checked this morning, the total number of driver's licenses that were issued in the State of Nebraska was 3,444 and 3,444 and you take times this and it brings in a little over a million dollars so essentially we are not really doing anything with this fund. Those funds are really in there already. It is over a million dollars there, and with these thoughts in mind, that is why I support the override because we really put those funds there. We did away with the earmarking. That is what Senator Warner wanted. I think that was a mistake then. We probably should have kept the earmarking there. But anyway that is the way things went but there is

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