

January 25, 1973

approve another issue we would be paying for these school buildings twice and three times and you reach the point where you're shifting such a load on your own children that I think that the question comes how can you look yourself in the eye when you're dumping so much of it on to future generations, and I think we have reached that point right now in Omaha, and I think many of the citizens agree that the bond costs themselves of three and a half million dollars a year alone is more of a cost than most school districts in the state now have. I'd like to add one other thing, you mentioned the fact you weren't too informed, you weren't at the hearing, I'd like to point out to the members of this body especially those who were not here two years ago, or last year, that I offered a resolution for a study of the Omaha School district and I had in mind and I said on this floor and the tapes will show, that I wanted an independent group of out state Senators to hopefully spend a week or two up in Omaha looking at the problems, in their independent judgement make their opinions and come back here and tell us what they think the situation is. After the resolution was adopted, it was killed in the education committee by the education committee. If you and the other members of this body are ignorant, God knows it isn't my fault, because I tried to make you interested and intelligent both about our problems but I was defeated in these efforts by the education committee. Personally I have great faith in the out state Senators, I only wish that we could have had six, seven, or eight, or ten of them come and spend a week or two in Omaha, and I would have no doubt in my mind what their consideration would be had they done so.

SENATOR PROUD: Well Senator Stahmer I realize that bond elections can be costly, at the same time if the people of the Omaha School district, the majority of those people don't want to construct buildings is it not true that they have this opportunity to exercise this prerogative before the bonds are floated, they can vote yes or no, is that not true.

SENATOR STAHMER: Senator Proud, I'd like to, as Abraham Lincoln once said, let's be honest it mystifies our friends and befuddles our enemies. There are more things to consider in Omaha school bond elections than buildings and students, don't look now but we got race to consider, we get all kinds of things stirred up and mixed up in our so called bond elections and when the people vote I'm not sure what they're voting on, for, or against, for what reason. This is not a typical school situation, it is a metropolitan school situation, and as you are no doubt aware, you live in the city of Omaha and represent a school district that isn't even in the city of Omaha. A separate school district where you will not have to pay any increases in taxes for most of your district.

SENATOR PROUD: Senator speaking of the truth, I do live in the city of Omaha, and part of school district 66 is in the city of Omaha, contrary to what you said, I am in the city of Omaha, and in district 66.

SENATOR STAHMER: That's exactly what I said, but you won't have to pick up the bond costs.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the body, as a member of the education committee I supported LB 10, I voted for it in general file and would intend to vote for it again. I'm of the opinion that this gives the citizens of Omaha which are Nebraskans the opportunity to do what they want with their own school system and their own money. If I'm voting to increase, if I'm voting for fifty percent increase, on Omaha tax payers I would reverse my vote, I put a question to Senator Stahmer, am I voting for Omaha tax increase?

SPEAKER: Senator Stahmer.