

February 7, 1973

to 80 mills and when 80 mills are gone, they are going to shut the school down.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion of the Carpenter amendment? Senator Carpenter, do you care to close on your amendment? Senator Carpenter is closing on his amendment to LB 197. Wait a minute. Senator Stahmer, do you wish to be heard on this issue before he closes? On the amendment. The clerk will read the amendment once again.

CLERK: The amendment would delete the sentence in LB 197, starting on Line 9, It would just delete the whole sentence: "Such lease or lease-purchase agreements may not exceed a period of twenty years." It just deletes it.

SPEAKER: Proceed, Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, it seems to me that the direct action is more effective than to put a number of things in a bill that actually, really don't mean anything. We've had in the beginning, for example, LB 10 in its original form years ago was 2 mills. Then it got to be 4 mills and now it is 6 mills, only, as I recall, for Omaha but it is four for the rest of us. Now that has the same affect as this bill we are talking about. This bill says that the people, regardless of whatever the condition might be, because of their objection to taxes and things like that, probably don't want to obligate themselves in bonds. If you feel the need is still there and you really believe that the school boards ought to have the authority and the responsibility of the lease, why do we want to put restrictions in the bill and make it difficult for the school board to work out the details and assume the responsibility in order to rent the schools. Whatever limitation you put in there, really is no limitation because one the school board, in my judgment, assume the obligation of a lease whether it is to be paid in five years and eventually it turns out it is going to take ten, fifteen or twenty years, they are still going to have to pay off the bill. So why don't we give them all the flexibility only in the area of those school districts who want to do it. In other centers, for example, which school board doesn't want to do it, they don't have to do it. There is nothing mandatory about it. It just says, those school boards in which they have this problem. Maybe we ought to amend this bill to say they can only do this and I would offer the amendment if you want to adopt it after they have had a public meeting within the area in which the school district is located and alerting the people by a reasonable amount of publicity what they are considering to do. I think that might be a precautionary method, although I would believe that even if they did that, there wouldn't be anybody there among those who are eventually going to pay the bill in order to advise them whether to do it or whether not to do it. My only point is being, why should we make it difficult to do something. We can do it better by direct action. Senator Syas says I changed my mind. Why I do that regularly. That shouldn't come as any surprise to him. And I think an intelligent person reserves the right to always change his mind. And a man who feels he is always right is nothing more or less than a fool, and I don't think I'm a fool, and I don't think you think I'm a fool either.

SPEAKER: Senator Whitney, do you have a question of Senator Carpenter? He was closing on his motion.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes. Yes, would Senator Carpenter yield to a question, please?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Sure.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Senator Carpenter, do you have another amendment coming up? What I'm trying to get at is, does this particular amendment that's coming up, would it have any affect on whether or not we voted in favor or against this amendment?