

April 30, 1973

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acting for the Executive Council would refer this bill to the Budget Committee where it would normally go, and I would presume, under the leadership of Senator Marvel and the Committee, they will have a full hearing and I understand he would like to repeal the Rules in order to be able to set a Public Hearing on Thursday of this week, at which time, I would presume then, the Committee, if it so desired, could amend this bill with the capital improvements suggested by the Governor of the state of Nebraska in the amount of eighteen million dollars. Speaking only for myself, I am in favor of spending that amount of money, of eighteen million dollars, because that again is what he asked us to do and so far that is all we have ever done is to do what he asks us to do. And for the main part, I was the catalyst between him and this body which I no longer am, if that is any news to you. It isn't that I bear any hatred. That isn't so. I just don't have any respect, and there is a difference. I think, also, that we ought to project, and I am talking now in round numbers, another eighteen million dollars in addition to what he recommends be spent in this fiscal year and that we consider in round terms another eighteen million to project and to round out the capital projects in all areas of state responsibility for the next three or four years. But I want to be sure that we spend all the money he advocates because I don't want to give him any cushion in order to help him succeed and which I don't think he can do in the first place. But if he can, that's the least we can do to give him the chance and that's what I propose insofar as I can convince you people we do. In a general sense, I think that outlines...what I've told you is the truth. I have no reason to lie to this body. I never have and I never knowingly will. Now, this is just exactly what it is. This is what he wants. This is what he asked me to be the means to give him and that's exactly what this body did and without his help on that Monday morning you would have never done it in my judgment. Now, if we are going to be irresponsible, the most irresponsible thing we could do is to introduce another bill in order to attempt to undo what we've did in the area of giving him the chance without any restriction to do what he advocates he can do and how he is going to do it. And so far as I'm concerned. I propose to hold his feet to the fire. If he can do it, I have nothing except, in this particular case, respect for his ability to do what I don't think either he or anybody else can do but I don't know. I think this body ought to make a test. We will be back here in January. That's not very long, six or seven months. Let's give the people of this state an opportunity for them to make up their mind, do they want us to be frugal. Very likely they don't. But if they do, who should say they shouldn't be able to do it. I would agree that the contention will come in the fiscal year, next year. I have another amendment to one of the Governor's bills which will say that the Board of Equalization shall set the rate not later than October the 15th of each year and not hide until after the election is over with, which has been somewhat of a habit, which we ought to break people who use this as a habit as a reason to escape from a political standpoint those things which basically are there responsibility. Another amendment in order to separate the formula between the sales and the income tax in order to let the State Board exercise what judgment they want to raise either one or both to do whatever is necessary to do. That's only a brief resume of what I would like to put before this body as I understand the facts in this case are. I would oppose, obviously, the raising of another bill and I would like to see anyone get 30 votes to do it.