

May 2, 1973

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well, obviously my hopes would be that we would do like the State of Hawaii which is very modern which attempts to do the thing in the right way. It assumes that the property tax is an obsolete tax and what the, what I'd like to see do, done is for the State of Nebraska to pay all the school costs with its taxes, sales and income taxes, all of it. Then and only then will you have equality of opportunity of education, then and only then will we be able to have the merging of schools such as we will have in efficient and economical operation of our schools in our state and then and only then will we have an equitable tax system.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Thank you, Senator Whitney. There have been a couple of other comments this afternoon, in fact I've tried to identify myself as a rural Senator. However, I'm constantly included with Omaha Senators and pretty soon I'll begin to accept that fact. We've had a couple of threats this afternoon, two that I've heard publicly, that they're going to boycott Omaha. I suggest that people who go to Omaha as well as myself or anyone else go there because they have something to offer, because they have the materials you want to buy and the services you want to receive the benefits of and not out of any great loyalty to western Nebraska to drive clear to Omaha to spend your money. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. Speaker and fellow members, I'm wondering if we could approach this property tax relief from another angle, that is that maybe we should contact our school boards and our county supervisors and those who are spending our property taxes. Now I understand that Senator Lewis, Frank Lewis, he--I understand, he tells me he was getting \$15,000 a year as a teacher and then he ran for the Legislature and now he's taking \$4800. And we have folks lined up for all these teaching jobs whenever they're open, there's plenty of applicants. Maybe we should look at it from this angle to start looking at going into some austerity program and I believe in paying teachers well but I think sometimes in our administration we're probably paying a little bit too much. Now I think the superintendent from I believe Keyes district took \$2,000 off of his salary, he said it was a drop in the bucket and maybe we should approach it from this angle. Maybe we should write to, our constituents ought to write to the school board and write to the county supervisors and those who are spending our tax dollars and see that we can economize just a little bit and this way we can cut down inflation and help in many ways. We're just adding to the problem when we keep appropriating more money.

SPEAKER: Chair would like to recognize some visitors. In the south balcony from Oakland, Iowa, we have 50 fifth grade students and four adults, the students are from the Oakland Independent Schcol. Senator Carpenter. Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: ...personal privilege. I think Senator Nore distorted money just a little bit. The time I--until September of this past year I was a twelve-month employee of the school district and if you want the specifics, the nine month salary for teaching was a little over \$11,000 for 15 years, no 13 years and more than 5 years of education

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so I don't think that's really distorted but I work 12 months for the school district. That's not a nine month--I'm saying