

May 10, 1973

(Start Belt #5)

Legislature in Nebraska has traditionally not had the desire to exercise strong leadership and I think that our solution here is attempting to bring the Governor down to our level rather than taking the alternative approach which is raising ourselves to the level of strength of the Governor which I think we can do and I would like to point out one particular example in this regard. This has been the discussion that we have had in recent weeks in regard first of all to LB 123 and then to the suggestion which the Governor made on the 16th of April that we were running sufficiently ahead of anticipated revenues that we would collect about \$8 million additional money than what had been predicted. We were told that this was information that should have been provided to the Legislature by the Department of Revenue, by the Governor's Executive Branch. What I am saying instead is that this particular information was developed from raw data that was commonly available to everybody through news releases, through daily deposit records that are made by tax, by the Department of Revenue, recorded with the State Treasurer. What I'm saying is that the raw data is available. The analysis that the Governor used to develop his information is just that. It is an analysis and I do not think that we should put ourselves in the position of requiring, put ourselves in a position of depending on an analysis that the Governor's branch makes. Instead, I think that that analysis, using the raw data that is available, should be made by our own fiscal analyst staff. I have visited with our fiscal analyst and he indicates that he is in a position to develop the capability to do this and I certainly hope that the Legislature will do this so that we can make our own analysis and depend on our own information rather than information provided by the Governor. I think there is another key consideration in this matter because this particular bill creates a data processing administrator. Data processing computer operation, by their very nature, do give power to the--to the branch of government that controls this data processing. I think that creation of the data processing administrator in this particular bill, does create some extraordinary powers in terms of the review that that person would have, the control that that person would have over other executive functions of government. I asked for and received information indicating the computer charges, the computer usage of the State's computers in regard to all of the Executive Branches of government. I think the figures that this indicated tell a very interesting story because they indicate, first of all, that in regard to the, to the computers that we have here in the Statehouse, that approximately 97% of the computer time, the computer usage, is done either by agencies that are directly controlled by the Governor where the Governor directly appoints the director of that particular agency and this represents some 94, excuse me, some 93% of the total computer time and an additional 4+% which is controlled or which is used by agencies that are directed by commissions appointed by the Governor, so what we are in effect doing, is now the Governor does control the operation of this computer and some 97% of the computer time goes to agencies that answer directly or through commissions, directly to the Governor. The State Executive Offices, on the other hand, which the--elected Executive offices that would probably take over control of this particular commission, are right now using only one-fourth of one percent ($\frac{1}{4}$ of 1%) of this computer time and so I think that there would be a serious