

January 24, 1974

(Start Belt #3)

Statesman. We are all politicians. We are all brothers under the skin and let us admit it and let us accept it. There is nothing wrong with that, that is the way we live. That's way we have always lived. Now in the area, I don't want to get into this budget, except that is the thing that will come up later. In the area of School Aid, obviously, to local public schools if we pass it in the form in which it leaves 5 for 1 advocated we're going to have to raise either the sales tax or the income tax or both. But if I have to choose. If I have to choose between what I believe is the need of the people of my state, and the petition reason because of political expediency trying to keep the mill levy and the sale and the income tax at it's present level irrespective upon the affluence of the people of this state. The choice is not hard for me. I want to raise whatever is necessary based on the known need accepted by 25 men and women of responsibility, that's what we ought to do. Now it's my case that I'm up for reelection. And there are a lot of people there would just as soon have another boy. And with good reason. But if that's the difference where I am not coming to this body, and I want to come back, but if that is the difference I prefer to stay home. There is something more important than holding a political office. And sometimes we give it to much credence. Now I don't want to talk about bravery, we are all affected by this thing. Maybe in varying degrees of what motivates us to do what we do. That's beside the question. We are all human people. But I just want to tell the people of this state that that extent of the Governor's message insofar as I'm concerned does not reflect the facts. We understand to each his own. We understand if we spend the money we're going to have to raise the taxes. And he understands that this body is not now, going to raise the income tax upon our own response from 11 to 13%. We realize that tax rates are set under the present law by what method. After we add up what we spend. Then the Board of Equalization sets the tax rate. And what do they set? After the election. After the election. Now if you stop to think about it, is that the realistic thing to do? Should we always protect ourselves, and should we always permit the Chief Executive to protect himself. He is in the same position that we are. If we have to raise the tax rates, let's do on or before the first day of November of each year. I don't care whether we set the tax rates or if they set them as they now are. What difference does it make? This country is in trouble and this state is in trouble. And what we need today is leadership. Let's forget about the idea of future applications of holding public office and to do what we know what we ought to do at the time we do it. That's our problem.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer for what purpose did you want to be recognized.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President and members of the body. In continuation of somewhat Senator Carpenter said. I'd like recall that last year on the last day of the session when we could advance bill I was approached to have one of my bills utilized for the purpose of lowering taxes in Nebraska. The income tax namely from 15 to 13%. The easy and political thing for me to have done as a Democrat would have been to have refused that request. And had I refused it