

March 5, 1974

SENATOR WHITNEY: I haven't checked up to see what Omaha would get.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Well, I would assure you that would be true and that would be true about Lincoln. That would be true about North Platte. That would be true about Kearney. That would be true about Grand Island. That would be true about most of the major school districts that have an assessed valuation of less than a state wide average which is about I suspect around.....

SENATOR WHITNEY: I did check up on your school district, Bellevue, would get a little less. They now get \$258 per pupil and I have Class 3 K-12 school districts that only get \$75 which is less, which is only about 1/3 as much as your school district gets.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Senator, I appreciate that and I've continued to check on Chappell as you have continued to check on Bellevue and I think that's a fair exchange. Now, the other question you pointed to, paying more than anybody else on a per pupil basis. What's the expenditure for instance. Let me just pick out a district, Chappell.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Oh, I think it would be about \$1,000 per pupil.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: I thought it was \$1,100 but I accept that. That's about \$100 above the state average and probably about \$250 above, for instance, Bellevue or Omaha. You're spending more by about 30%. The essence of.....thank you, Senator Whitney.....the essence of the bill is, of course, is to take money from Omaha, Lincoln, the school districts that have a low assessed valuation and I could go down the list for you, and place it in other school districts that have more of a tax base. This amendment is twice as bad....this particular amendment is twice as bad as the amendment to the amendment that he had that you defeated and I would encourage you to vote it down.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of the motion? Are you all through discussing Senator Whitney's amendment? Senator Warner, your light is still on. Do you want to talk. Senator Whitney, do you have any closing? All right, Senator Whitney is now closing on his amendment to LB984.

SENATOR WHITNEY: I will be very brief. We shouldn't talk about taking money away from Omaha and Lincoln. What you're really doing in the present law is taking money away from the agricultural areas of the state and funneling it into the some of the larger cities. That's what's happening. It's coming out of about 72 counties and going into a relatively few counties. I don't think this is fair for the agricultural population of the State of Nebraska and when I'm, what I'm attempting to do is a reasonable compromise. And when I say a compromise, I mean that some of my school districts should get more than \$75 per pupil and some of the other school districts would get less than \$258 per pupil. Now, the present law is exactly what we've had now for several years. And the proposals which have made by the Education Committee are just simply the present law. And it's not right, it's not fair for you to expect the farmers in the State of Nebraska and the people living in the agricultural areas to be spending sales and income taxes out of their pockets similar to what other people are spending and then not get back a reasonable