

March 26, 1974

LB772

They didn't want a reason, they wanted an excuse. Now this bill is a simple bill. It only transferred the tax burden. It's just that simple. If you think people who own real estate, I don't care if it's farm or city or what it is, they're not in favor of this bill. You just haven't been contacted yet and I don't think you've been contacted anyway. You think if one or two people contact you, the whole town's on your back. And that isn't so. And the fact remains, let's take Omaha. Omaha, for example is composed....not the senators, they're the best people in the world. They only do to some extent what the Omaha School Board tells them to do and the Omaha School Board now, including Mr. Knudtsen, he doesn't know what he wants to do. The safest position is to vote no. Then you go over in the rich school district....66, of course, they don't want anything, for example, because they've got the best of everything. Now everybody in this state who owns real estate, and I own some real estate, are going to get a varying tax reduction depending upon the mill levy and, as these gentlemen say here, it's not equitable. And, of course, it isn't equitable because nobody can write a bill that is. They know that. You can't write any bill that affects and treats everybody equally and equitable in the field of taxation. The courts have said this time and time again, they said do the best you can. The people in Omaha, the school teachers there who are reasonably well paid, they don't want this bill. For example, they think they're going to have their income tax raise. By the other, they're always worried about the children....the children....the children....they're crying from the bottom to the top of their head. And then we talk about quality education. What is that? That's an excuse, not a reason. Local control....as Senator.... local control....local control....you could put it to music. In Omaha it needs control...local control...about $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent, that's what it means in Omaha. I may make a few mistakes. I don't where District 66 is....are they in favor of it? Well, then, I apologize to them. Maybe they've got more real estate than I thought they had. That's all this bill is, my friends, is a transfer of the tax burden. Now the federal government, the national administration, this one specific and others in the past have advocated and are now considering some way to give relief to local real estate property owners. I presume they've talked to many about those who own homes because they are talking about them...they can't exclude, at least we can't. We can't exclude those people, probably they are going to get more of a credit than they're entitled to. But there's nothing we can do about that. And it is true that this burden is going to be shifted to those who probably can't afford to pay but they're not dissatisfied by paying more. I haven't found many people who pay a sales tax and even though they do pay an income tax, they're not opposed to raising the sales tax because they'd rather pay it that way than any other way. Even though they admit they're paying more than they should. I don't find anybody on this floor who's trying to tax 50% of our wealth, I guess that's the percentage, of intangibles. I certainly never heard of Senator Whitney advocating anything like that because he's got more of those than anything else in the world. And that is something sacred. You can't tax insurance companies because that's more sacred than intangibles because they're the same breed of cats. Now, it's just that simple, you're transferring the tax burden. And if you don't do it, my friends, you're going to get a reaction later. Because those want it, they do know and