

April 11, 1974

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator Richard Lewis. He passes to you.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Thank you, Senator DeCamp. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I certainly to Senator DeCamp for yielding to me, I don't have too many bits of wisdom to add here. But I am going to support Senator Stull in his effort to bring this bill back. I think it has been, I'll state it mildly and I think it's been mildly misrepresented. The facts here. I think there's one glaring error. And that is the method of determining the rentals. Senator DeCamp has stressed this as being a grave mistake, something that's going to put the funds in jeopardy. Something that's going to deprive the school children of Omaha of \$1 million dollars as I recall the testimony. The method of determining the rentals, I have reviewed these statutes with some attorneys who I feel are quite competent. They say that the interpretation of the law is broad there. That in their best judgment this is not an illegal procedure. And another statement that Senator DeCamp made in his testimony that if this bill is not passed, that the revenues will drop back from \$9 million to \$3 million. Now I'd like to point out to you that a goodly portion of that \$9 million comes from bonus bids on the rental of these leases. This is a purely voluntary thing. There's nothing mandatory about it. I don't see how this can be construed as being any part of the decline in the amounts of money available. If this bill isn't passed. I would certainly support Senator Stull in his effort to bring this back.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: No response.

PRESIDENT: Or wait a minute, excuse me, Senator DeCamp... did you want to speak now? Senator Schmit, all right, he's yielding the floor. I'll catch you later. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I rise in opposition to the motion by my good friend, Senator Stull, and again I recognize the sincerity of both Senator Stull and Senator Lewis. I just reiterate what I said earlier that the bill does exactly what we said it did. The bill is a needed bill. The bill does not go as far in some areas as we would like to go. But the committee has recommended that we study the issue further. But I believe in all honesty we must take one step at a time and this is a first step and it's a necessary step. And again I'm saying this that if I stood here as a farmer, as a lease holder, I would have to say kill the bill. Because frankly there are some of us who would then benefit from...

(End of Belt 2A)

(Begin Belt 3A)

the bill being killed. But to sit here as a member of representative government, we would have to say that the bill would have to be passed. And I think that when you travel across the land from the breadth of the State of Nebraska, you're going to find that the principal objection to the activities of the Board of Lands & Funds are perhaps some of the problems that have arisen from the individual or the personal contacts that have arisen or risen because of the difference in personalities of the individuals involved.