

February 13, 1979

LB 53

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner, do you wish to speak on the Lamb amendment?

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes, Mr. President. I would like to ask Senator Simon a question if he will yield.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Yes, Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Simon, are there some school districts in Nebraska that are doing this at the present time?

SENATOR SIMON: About half of the school districts are doing it, Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: If they are doing it, why do we need a bill?

SENATOR SIMON: I would be happy to answer that but I think we are supposed to be discussing the amendment. If the Speaker will give me the latitude I will be happy to answer the question but I do not think the question is germane to the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Go ahead and answer the question.

SENATOR SIMON: Okay.

SENATOR HEFNER: I was leading up to that, Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Okay. The reason and the whole purpose of the bill, Senator Hefner, is first of all, we have this provision right now with state employees. We have it with other public employees where if they want to have the dues check off they can. The bill also allows and I think this will answer, at least I have got my light punched to answer Senator Lamb's comments. The school district can charge whatever it costs, Senator Lamb, for the cost of implementing this program so it is not going to cost them a red cent. Furthermore, none of the school districts opposed the bill. There was no school administrators that opposed the bill. Now, Senator Hefner, the reason for the bill is because right now it is an agreement. It is an understanding that the school district will do this as, say a favor for the employees, but those criteria can change as happened in the case of Omaha where a particular school board member got a bee in his bonnet that he wanted to eliminate this provision and he forced it before the board. Now the board did uphold the current position that they have called for this dues check off system but that could change with the make up and it