

February 13, 1979

LB 53

those bills but like Senator Cullan, I voted for the two bills to increase the wheat check off and support the corn check off.

SENATOR LEWIS: I think the point trying to be made here is the fact that certainly we are doing this in other areas that we may have an interest in and I suppose we ought to do those in a uniform way and I think there is a bill up here now that we may be in a position to amend that would make it consistent and knowing Senator Cullan's opposition now and Senator Maresh's opposition and a number of oppositions to those kind of check offs, with a little help from some of the urban guys we may get those all on a volunteer basis which would help all of you and we could make it consistent. Obviously I oppose the Lamb motion. Senator Lamb and some of the others are trying to say well we want it this way in terms of farms. We want it the other way in terms of schools. Now let me tell you what the true facts are. Number one, no single school board appeared at the hearing in opposition to LB 53. Not one school board appeared to say, hey, we don't like this. Now I could understand the concern. I could understand the desire not to do this if there was a hue and outcry from the school board association and they are very vocal. They have a very excellent man as their full time lobbyist. He is out in the rotunda every day and he does a good a job and I have dealt with him a lot of times. This is not the issue with them but I guess the final message is, you can't have your cake and eat it. We are not going to do it one way in one area and not do it another way in another area. I think the bill is fair. I appreciate Senator Vickers to make it absolutely clear that everyone can join if they want to and they can get their money back, the whole process and I want to go through that form in terms of how it is done.

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute, Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: And I can do that in a minute, Mr. President. Every year, every single year a member joins the association. He is given a form that says, this year, here is the dues structure. Here is what it costs for each of the organizations, the N.E.E.A., the Nebraska State Education Association and the Local Education Association. Do you care to join? Do you care to join? Here is the card. Now you must sign that card. Now as a matter of convenience, once you have signed the card, then you can have the dues check off paid over a twelve month period which makes it a convenience to the teachers so that they don't have to drop out