

March 12, 1979

LB 425

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, what this amendment would do is take care of a particular problem which I have in my district, and which perhaps some other people might have. Let me briefly explain the situation. In Elkhorn, Nebraska there is a trailer court, which resides over four miles from the school. Many of the people there, as a matter of fact, most of them, have a number of kids, more than one. Some have as many as six or seven. State law provides that you shall receive forty cents per mile for one student in your family. It doesn't make any difference if you have two children, three children, ten children, you get forty cents a mile only for that first child. Now, the Elkhorn School Board has a financial problem. They are not paying for the bussing of the people that reside over four miles away. Instead, the people are having to contract through a private bus company. The Elkhorn School District is aware of the problem. Many of the people have bills in excess of a hundred dollars...a hundred and fifty dollars for bussing. They cannot afford to pay for the bussing and they are leaving their kids at home. The kids are not going to school. Some kids have not been to school for over two weeks. The Elkhorn School District would like to work on this situation. They feel, however, because of the current state law, they cannot pay for each additional child. This language is permissive. Let me emphasize that point, if no other. This language is permissive. It would allow the School Board, by a majority vote, to be able to pay for each additional child. I have talked with Carl White, who is the Superintendent of Schools at Elkhorn. He supports this amendment. I've talked to Senator Koch, who supports this amendment. The State Board of Education supports this amendment. I would ask that you return LB 425 and adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Is there any further discussion on the motion to return? The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. Chairman, a question of Senator Simon, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Simon, will you respond?

SENATOR SIMON: Yes, Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Senator Simon, it appears to me that this may have far-reaching effects, particularly in my district, because this is a widespread practice out in that area. Now, I'm wondering, for instance, how do you determine the actual