

April 20, 1979

LB 138

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I would like to have two more votes. I would like to...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 8 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion carried. Debate ceases and for purposes of closing, the Chair recognizes Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, and I want the press to hear this because I want this for the record and I want it for the clear record in terms of what is coming in the next two or three years so those that are advocating this will not be able to duck under the chairs and try to point somewhere else. This bill automatically guarantees a rate increase in sales and income tax, not right now, not right now, but in the long pull it does. In the long pull it does and those that are advocating this ought to stand up and admit that. As Senator Goodrich says it is 11% now. Senator Fowler's figures at 20% tell you that that is going to be almost \$20,000,000, \$20,000,000. We made the same mistake in terms of personal property tax which was the primary cause of sales and income tax increases in this state in the last four years, the primary cause and don't let anybody hide that. The people ought to know that. Now I prefer to do it straight up and straight up means if it is bad for the counties now, why put them through the punishment of taking four years to relieve this terrible burden and this terrible responsibility? Yes, Senator Nichol, they are living under lid and everybody is. Of course, we never mentioned some of the other programs that are not under the lid that is pending before this Legislature like gas tax increases that go back and other dollars that have gone back in the last three or four years and I will have those figures available for you on Select File. County government traditionally, like city government, and I just checked those figures with Douglas County, rely about 40% on property tax. The issue is this and it is a clear issue and it is a serious government issue. Do you want to continue to encumber money and not come up with a tax raise? Senator Kahle was absolutely right. \$20,000,000 has got to come from somewhere. I don't know if it is going to come in the way of a gift or the University of Nebraska foundation. I suspect not. I don't think it is going to come as a gift from the federal government to make up this. I suspect not.

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