

April 30, 1979

LB 494

**SPEAKER MARVEL:** Before we take up the motion, Senator Vickers, do you wish to speak on the indefinite postponement motion?

**SENATOR VICKERS:** Yes, I do, Mr. President. It is understandable that Senator Koch would rather have 486. I can understand that. He mentions that we are not taking into consideration the ability of the school district to support their own schools. If you can, Senator Koch or anybody else, tell me exactly how to determine what wealth is or where it is at I would certainly support any means to do that. I simply contend that the attempts being made by this body in the past and the attempts being made by Senator Koch and Senator Reutzel to use the evaluations as a reason for determining the wealth of the district is not valid. Perhaps that is because I know too many people that owe too much money on their property that they own, supposedly, and I would point out to the members of this body that this is not just a rural problem. We not only have farmers that... young farmers or middle aged farmers for that matter, that their equity is very low but we also have homeowners in cities that their equities are very low. So using that as a determination of wealth, in my opinion, is not a valid point. I think per pupil is fair. I think we know where they are at. People pay taxes and it seems to me we should put those tax dollars back to people. I would urge this body to not support Senator Koch's kill motion.

**SPEAKER MARVEL:** The motion is the indefinite postponement of LB 494. Senator Koch, do you have any closing remarks?

**SENATOR KOCH:** Mr. Speaker, as I said before, those of you who sit in this floor, on this floor, Senator Nichol and many others, if you had a chance to examine what the effect this will be on the Scottsbluff's and other... your larger school systems, then you cannot in good conscience support this measure unless you are a wealthy school district where your mill levies are relatively low, then you can but in view of 285 and the lid and we are trying to alleviate property taxes. When a community loses 25 or 30 or 40 or 50 or even 60% of state aid in a number of cases, then immediately that system is going to have to get to that property tax to get it. I concur with Senator Vickers that property should not be the only means of trying to determine a wealth. There are other factors that are involved but that is a problem that I can't control because this state has not seen fit to scientifically examine property values and apply certain kinds of factors to arrive at a fair and equitable value.