

May 8, 1979

LB 585

vote to increase the state's share of the local education dollar if I didn't think it would have a direct effect on the property tax of the State of Nebraska. But it will have. With LB 285 there's no way that that school district out there can use more of the state aid dollars and not reduce property taxes. We're going to get this money from the people of the State of Nebraska some place. This ten million dollars is going to come out of their pocket, and all we need to decide is do we want to take it out of the sales income tax, or do we want to take it out of the property tax. We've narrowed the property tax base down until it's nothing left but real estate and homeowners, and if nobody in here feels sorry for the elderly out there on that fixed income with their home that we're taxing them right out of, then let's not put this ten million in there. But if you really are serious about helping the property taxpayers of the State of Nebraska now is your chance. Sure it might increase the percentage here by a fraction, but I think the people of the State of Nebraska could just as soon increase the state's share a little bit if they take it out of their pocket on that side and reduce their property taxes, and that's what this is all about. I urge your adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I stand committed to a seven percent state spending in 1979. We have said to local departments of government, schools, cities, counties and other subdivisions we think you ought to live with the seven percent lid. Let's try for this one year to also have the state live within that seven percent lid, then let's come back in January and realistically reassess if that is what we want. But if you break it for the state before we've even tried it for one year, we will have nothing against which to compare our figures. We will have nothing against which to say, how much will this small amount, and I call ten million dollars a small amount when it is dribbled out across the State of Nebraska as property tax relief. In order to have it be noticeable to the individual homeowner, it takes more than a few dollars on a huge property tax bill to be noticeable. You know and I know that it will make very little difference to the individual property taxpayer but if we come back next year and say that's one of our number one priorities, let's look at it next year, and as many of you know I have long been a supporter of additional state aid for education. This year you have a