

March 18, 1980

LB 486

of what the gifted and the above average studnets will add to the good of the state. Let's talk strictly dollars. If we have more funds and give these students a better education they are going to be better tax producers and again, it comes back to the fact that we continue these programs that we have been increasing each year.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner, do you wish to speak to the Koch amendment?

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes, Mr. President. Mr. President and members of the body, I have been a supporter of state aid and the reason that I have is because I think we need to relieve the property taxes in the State of Nebraska. The schools in our state are heavy users of tax dollars and I think we need to try and relieve this burden and of course one of the ways to relieve this burden is to increase our state aid to schools and also to find a more equitable way to distribute the state aid. We now have LB 285, the 7% lid bill and I think if we increase the state aid to schools that this will relieve our property taxes, therefore, I would urge you to support the amendments to LB 486.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise to support LB 486 and urge that the bill be advanced to Select File and possibly then held there or at least held on Final Reading until we have advanced and plugged into the general state aid bill at whatever level of appropriation that this body with twenty-five votes will accept. 486 is a concept, true, but what is significant about it is it gets away from the dollar figures that was in the existing law that was LB 448 passed in 1967. At that time the figures that we are allocating state funds now are based on 1965 costs. All the criticism that you hear of the existing law primarily rests in that fact, that we are dealing with costs that are nearly thirteen or fourteen years old. 486 gets away from that problem. Once that the concept is adopted and once this body has arrived at a level of appropriation that a majority of the members will support then the calculations can very appropriately be made and I am sure would be made as to what the impact is on the various school districts. I, being one that has been down this road a lot of times, I understand the importance of each of us knowing the impact of any increase in aid and certainly any increase in sales or income tax as far as the effect of that increase in our individual districts or the school districts within our individual legislative districts but more important in 486 is the fact that it is a concept that is enduring. It is one that can function