

April 2, 1980

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than we thought we would. So I will support Senator Keyes. All of us know that any limitations upon government today are absolutely impossible. We also know, and I think Mr. Johnson passed out an editorial a moment ago, it my understanding he is talking about the integrity of the petition system, we are doing nothing to deny that integrity nor the principle whatsoever, but for us to say that governments today with so many external forces can operate on seven percent or some other magic number is merely caving in to pressures of a few people and many of those are wealthy people who want to get wealthier at the expense of the middle class and the poor, and if we had the courage today, we'd get serious about Senator Keyes' amendment and we would say we took a giant step here on this floor this session and let those who want to amend the Constitution carelessly proceed to do so. There are some people on this floor scared to death of a possible constitutional lid drive. I am not. Maybe for the first time the people of this state would truly understand that nothing is that simple, and for us to sit here just like now, we have what, 613, Metropolitan Transit Agency, they want out of the lid because they say they can't properly carry out their responsibility. We have got some townships that want out of the lid because they can't take care of bridges and roads to the extent they should be able to, and for those of us who put off those kinds of issues until tomorrow, you are really costing the taxpayers additional money. There is an old proverb "A stitch in time saves nine", and that applies to money as well. Just like our highways, we have been talking about increased taxes for highways and the reason we have that quadrupling of cost today is because this state in the past because of certain Governor's action, this body's action and other kinds of decisionmakers, their actions, today we have a rather difficult system of highways. So now we are going to increase gas tax. We have got to try to catch up. The horse has already gone. I think it is time for us as elected people to show some courage and to say that there is no way that you can get there living under a lid and I also noticed when I looked at the survey Senator Stoney sent out that in his part of Omaha, which is west, there is a strong and overwhelming group of people who want to remove the lid. That is rather interesting. I could have told him that would happen. And I say that we should repeal all lids and I will support Senator Keyes.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Well, Mr. President, I agree with my good

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