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LB 609

Affairs, nine point two, nine, two; the Department of Water Resources, eleven point zero, six, six; the Department of Public Welfare, thirteen point two, four, three; Workmen's Compensation Court, eight point two, five, three. That is the seven percent budget. I think most of those programs are justified and I stand ready to support them but the mendacity...

SENATOR CLARK: You have got thirty seconds left, sir.

SENATOR LEWIS: I am going to finish it, too. The mendacity of suggesting that we are really holding the line with a seven percent budget and we are going to set the prime example for the locals, you don't have to come from Harvard or Yale to understand what I just said and what the increases are, but you know something, this is not a new trend. A lot of people have washed their hands and exclaimed how holy they are but they can never alter the facts.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers. Senator Keyes, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR KEYES: Fellow Senators, I want to tell you that Frank and I had never talked one bit about this but I never seen a better explanation of what has happened in the State of Nebraska, and if times continue as this, we will have chaos in this country. Let me tell you we'll have chaos. We have got a forty percent gas tax. Gas tax, the ones that we are trying to put on now went up forty percent. That is what we are advocating on the backs of the people with already what the federal government has put on. Corn, and let me tell you something about the crops and the increment in this state. The corn prices are down thirty percent from what they were two years ago. Wheat is down over fourteen percent. Beans are down thirty-five percent. Cattle are down better than twelve to fifteen percent. Hogs are down fifty percent. Real wages are down eighteen percent this year. They were down twelve percent last year in accordance with the inflation. If you think the people of this state can continue to pay taxes, can continue to do as we have asked them to do, you are mistaken. If you think that we are going to go on and on and on increasing the taxes while the real wages go down, my friends, you are mistaken. I ask you to take off this lid bill, let the responsibility lie with the people that are elected to fill office. They have a right to come in by petition. That is fine. I will not vote to take that away from them but I am telling