

April 2, 1980

LB 609

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Murphy says that if we repeal LB 2 we will be building a fire under the taxpayers of this state, a conflagration so great that the Constitution itself will be amended, reducing the number of state senators from who knows what to who knows what, that the state will have a lid itself and the like. You and I cannot live under blackmail. We have been elected to give this job our best judgment and our honest values and if there is one thing I am, it is a believer in the democratic process and the democratic process very simply is representative government. Representative government is the rock upon which our republic is founded. We are not a direct democracy. We are not Switzerland where the cantons meet and people all get together and they vote on each issue. We do not conduct our government through plebiscites. We do not conduct our government through cable television where the cable t.v. asks the question and you punch a button and you give them a yes or no. We are not a poll government where we take a poll to see how people feel. We are a representative government and that means simply we elect people to come down to Lincoln or we elect people to go to our school boards and to our city councils and what have you to give their best judgment and if we disagree with their best judgment, then we defeat them four years later or two years later as the case may be and if we really disagree with their best judgment, if we really think they are out to lunch, we start the recall petitions. That is what we do but we don't come through with a lid that hamstring our representatives. We don't do that. That is not the fundamental nature of a representative government. Please bear in mind, my amendment does not repeal the lid law that you and I wrote last year. LB 285 is left in effect. Everybody has a 7% lid. There are some exceptions to it but very few exceptions. I frankly, was pleased to read in the paper the other day that only a handful of very very small subdivisions had failed to conform to the lid law. It shows to me that our local subdivisions are doing as good a job as they can do under the circumstances to comply with the lid law but it is we, the representatives, in this state that impose that lid law. Now, we don't need to have LB 2. LB 2 is an anachronism. LB 2 should be repealed. We should play the man or the woman as the case may be, and do what is right and what is right to take it off the books. What is right is to make certain that its consequences no longer go on to haunt the local subdivisions, i.e., Nebraska City and Omaha. If we can't, in our conversations with our voters, show our voters

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