

April 9, 1980

LB 627

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, I would like to discuss the Koch amendment if the senators are listening. Just as soon as the body gets ready, Senator Marvel, to get back to business. I know we are very concerned about what has just happened here this afternoon.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes, sir. The Chair will recognize Senator....Senator Keyes, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, I will talk on.....

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair has problems up here with the fact that the lights do not go off. If you will please turn your light off when you start and then turn it on when you want to speak, it would be helpful.

SENATOR KEYES: Thank you ever so much. I think Senator Warner and Senator Koch who introduced this bill last year....Senator Carsten, I think there are some things that we failed to realize about this bill. When that bill was voted in by all the legislators of this group, except two of us, it was understood the thing might have a seven percent lid, that it could have as much as a twelve percent lid if the people voted. There is nothing in the books today that says that the school district or the subdivision of government cannot go to their electors and ask for a twelve percent increase, a nineteen percent increase, six percent increase. I presume that they could go and ask for a seven or a ten percent decrease. That is written in the bill. That was one of the talking things that Senator Warner told me we want this to be so that every subdivision of government could set its own limitations on spending, its own limitations on taxes. Senator Carsten, if Nebraska City is in a hurry and cannot solve its problems and cannot live with the lid, and if Omaha cannot live with the lid, after this next year they can come in, they can borrow money now this year, they can come in and go to the people and ask that they have not only the seven percent but that they can have ten percent more on top of it, whatever the people are willing to buy. I thought at the time and while I voted against it, I thought at the time you know it might be a good idea to let the people of this state decide how they want to spend their money and not realizing that they would put in a zero lid on the biggest district in the State of Nebraska, but that is the prerogative of the people, and the people still have that prerogative under Senator Koch's amendment except that it will be on for one year in Omaha. Reluctantly, I am going to support what Senator Koch has, but I want everybody that is listening to