

April 10, 1980

LB 1002

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President...Mr....could I have the microphone?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, are you on?

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President. Mr. President and colleagues, it is the old government solution. If you just throw enough money at it, the problem is going to go away. We just passed \$20 million. Now we are coming in with \$40 million and we all admit that \$40 million really isn't going to give us much property tax relief. In fact, across this state, it is going to give us exactly about seven...about eight million dollars property tax relief. I like what Senator Kahle says about a per pupil distribution. I have been talking about that personally now for four years. We get these complicated formulas that not three people in the body can understand and not fifteen people outstate can understand, Omaha and Lincoln included, and we are just putting the balls up in the air trying to get the money politically distributed in a way that nobody gets hurt too bad. The equalization formula in my opinion is a sham and it is indefensible. What are we trying to equalize? What are we trying to equalize with the equalization formula? Well, it just depends on what stage of debate we are in. At one point we are trying to equalize educational opportunity. When we equalize educational opportunity and see money going to the Omaha and the Lincoln schools, are we saying then that there is less educational opportunity in Omaha and Lincoln than there is in Cedar Rapids and than there is in Humphrey, than there is in Columbus. Well, I think it doesn't take very long to recognize the ridiculousness of that concept. So then what are we trying to equalize? Are we trying to equalize the ability to pay? Are we trying to equalize income and sales tax dollars with property tax dollars? And then we look at the formula and find that that equalization formula is based upon assessed value of property, and let's just think about how we assess property across this state and how unequal property is assessed today in Nebraska, miserable, rotten. It is absolutely the most unsound, unstable, false base to base a formula on there is but then we base our state aid formula on that very shaky base and that is the problem we had three years ago when LB 33 couldn't go, is because those counties that were diligent in bringing their property values up to where they should be got penalized. Those counties that were not diligent and kept their property values low got rewarded and we saw that happening in Douglas County and

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