

April 10, 1980

LB 1002

idea. The Revenue Committee saw not to advance that bill and maybe they were correct in not doing so because it was a pretty big bite, but while we are talking now about who gets the most money from the various funds, as of 1980, April 10th, let's drop back just a few years before the State Board of Equalization brought the valuations up-to-date. We will find that over the years the urban schools did in fact receive a larger proportion of the state aid dollars based upon the fact that they came from the so-called poorer districts. The facts are, and I hope that some of you will listen to this, that for many years, ten years at least, and I think Senator Warner will back me up on this, that because the rural property was valued higher than the urban property the urban property or the urban districts received a larger share of the state tax revenue dollars than they were in fact entitled to, and so when we are starting to talk now about balancing bucks for bucks from the various funds, we are losing sight of the fact that for a good many years dollars were being returned to the urban districts at a ratio greater than could have been justified had real estate values been equalized as they were in 1979. So for many years the funds that were going back to the urban districts were in fact greater than they should have been. Now it is always impossible, it will always be so, to actually totally balance out the bucks you pay...

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and the dollars you get back but I think that the time will come, and probably sooner than later, when we will recognize the futility of trying to make major changes in these various formulas at this time, whether it is the state aid formula or the personal property tax formula or any other formula and deal with the entire issue as a whole. I will support Senator Kahle's motion because I agree with him philosophically and I am afraid that is probably all the support we are going to get, Senator Kahle. But the facts are that eventually we are going to have to take the bullet by...bite the bullet and do the whole thing at one time, and when we do that, hopefully we will treat everyone a little more equitably than we have in the past.

SENATOR CLARK: Before I recognize the next speaker, in the North balcony we have 20 eighth grade students and three adults, West Catholic Elementary School, Menominee, Nebraska. Teacher is Daniel Shreves. They are in the North balcony