

April 18, 1980

LB 627

SENATOR KAHLE: Well, if it was hold harmless it would... would it give them seven percent over what they have right now?

SENATOR KOCH: Well, as I understand the Omaha situation and we're alluding to that, my understanding is that when they are going through the permanent budget, and they have two of them, one of them is they are going to have to cut 15 million dollars from their money they receive from property tax because they said you cannot increase over what you did the preceding year. So if we were to give them some state aid, that would help to make up for this severe loss of money and possibly not be severe in cutting of programs and faculty and staff.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well, thank you. I think that is an important part, and, of course, we haven't voted on that issue yet, but I find myself in a predicament. I cannot vote to relieve that lid in that short a time because I think we do need to observe the rights of the citizens that put the lid on, even though they may have made a mistake and they probably did in my estimation. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Ladies and gentlemen, my concern is not so much funding. My concern is not so much lid, but I have a very deep concern about section 8 of this bill, which says that we, the Legislature, in what can only be set out as the role of a tyrant, are going to tell the people whom we supposedly represent that regardless of how they vote, of what they want, we are going to change it. Now if it was a matter of an expression of desire and we ignored it and elected to be as some portray us representative government, I wouldn't find that problem with it. I have watched the growth of the influence of the educators in this body for eight years. This year not a blessed educational bill has failed to pass through this body. Not a one. Not a one. So be it. But now the arrogance expressed in section 8 said, we will, despite your vote, turn our backs on you and do what you have expressly asked us by vote not to do. I find it to be the most frightening thing that has happened to me in eight years. Next we will tell them when they send us an elected senator from the district that we, the Legislature, notwithstanding their vote on that issue have decided to pick Joe Doe instead of. This has got to be the most offensive, most arrogant act that this Legislature has ever committed in what we questionably call a Democracy.