

March 24, 1982

LB 761

RECESS

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Fenger, would you check in, please. Have you all checked in, please. The Clerk will record.

CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The Clerk has another amendment on LB 761.

CLERK: Mr. President, I believe Senator Koch has an amendment to the bill. Senator Koch would move to amend the bill, essentially adding a million dollars, I believe, to the Special Ed fund. Is that right, Senator?

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the body, before we recessed for lunch we had an effort to refund or replace a little over \$3 million in Special Ed. I told you then that there was another place where Special Ed was going to catch a little problem and this is the area that goes into the administration. This is a million dollars again. All I am asking is that we replace that. I know that there was some kind of an agreement that was made among certain people with the Governor and that is fine, but I am elected to represent the citizens, not only of my district but the State of Nebraska, particularly parents of handicapped and those who supply the source. So in your budget book if you look on pages 19 that the Appropriations Committee gave to us, they say, reduce Special Ed by \$1 million recommended by the Governor, agreed to by the Department of Education. That is in bold print and that bothers me because I happen to believe that the person who represents education, the highest degree, the highest level, should represent the boys and girls regardless of their needs and say we're going to stand pat and let the Legislature make a determination to what extent we're going to make these kinds of agreements. Now I've been led to believe that some way or other that million dollars is going to be recovered some place but the record that I have observed here in the past hasn't always been that splendid. I am saying, again, I know this state has financial problems but one more time, why are you going to put it back on the local subdivisions of government to help to make up these kinds of reductions? So I am asking instead of the \$3 million that maybe we can have a tradeoff, at least we can replace this \$1 million. That is two million, four hundred and some odd thousand dollars less than what I proposed to you this morning and I ask that this be replaced because I don't think that the Nebraska Department of