

April 1, 1986

LB 1250

may be possible to still protect public employees with a very substantial increase, more than it appears they are going to get on social security, for example, on the national level, and protect them for next year. So I ask you to support what I think is a reasonable middle of the road approach to this.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator DeCamp. Senator Harris, on the DeCamp amendment, please.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose this amendment also. I don't think it is going to accomplish anything but negative aspects, if we delay instead of going ahead with any intended pay raise at the present time. I think this amendment is not as acceptable as maybe Senator Schmit's amendment where we say we are absolutely not going to do it for these following reasons. Here is simply a delay. It is going to possibly save some money in the short run but I would submit to you that we would be better off in doing some trimming in programs, as Senator Warner has said, and maybe cut back the scope of government and keep our good employees that we have on hand currently working for the State of Nebraska well paid, keep them efficient, keep them working, keep them so that they will stay with the State of Nebraska through these tough times. I think it is a poor idea to, at the current time, send this sort of message to the state employees. Thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Harris. Senator Warner, on the DeCamp amendment, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I, too, would rise to oppose the amendment, and for a repeat of the same reasons given before. The number one reason, of course, is the fact that you are building in a \$5.4 million increase into next year's budget when it then becomes necessary to annualize. It is shades of the same story that we have had time and time again in recent years which surely by now everyone recognizes. We build in future obligations and then you wonder why you have got a problem. And we have done it repeatedly on the revenue side and we have delayed implementation of programs. Time and time again we say, gosh, we shouldn't have done that, and then we turn around and look for ways to do it again. It is a simple fact that a problem deferred is not a problem solved and that is what you are looking at. But not only do you have the 5.4 million, some of the ideas that are floating around and have been advanced rest heavily upon one-time money, dipping into reserves, using cash reserves, using cash funds, one-time