

April 1, 1986

LB 1250A

SENATOR WARNER: No.

SENATOR CARSTEN: If not, all those in favor of the second Warner motion will vote aye, those opposed will vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Warner's amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Warner's amendment to LB 1250A has been adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit would move to indefinitely postpone the bill.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I do not do this again in an attempt to delay the work of the Legislature. I want to say at the outset that the Warner amendments, according to my information, could be attached to LB 1251. If we were to kill LB 1250A we would in effect say that we have established a limit on the personal services of stealing, that we have left intact the 3 percent raise. In effect we have said that if there is a million dollars available for salaries, the million dollars is there, if you've been hiring X number of individuals, you will have to hire fewer individuals to stay within that personal services limitation. I do not believe this is an unrealistic approach. There isn't a business in the country that during times of stress does not take a look at their staffing. There isn't an operation, there isn't even a law office that if it fell upon hard times, would not take a look at how they could replace or do without an individual. We are in that kind of a period. I do not like to be looked upon as one who is an ingrate, one who has no feeling for individuals, one who has no concern for the state employee, the record belies that. The facts are that we have another obligation and that is to a million, six hundred thousand citizens of the State of Nebraska to operate an efficient state government. I do not have the numbers conveniently before me, but I believe you all know that Nebraska has a high ratio of state employees per capita, that we've been told at various times that is because of our geography or some other peculiar reason. I would suggest that there isn't any reason why we cannot reduce our employees and conserve some of the few hard-earned tax dollars we have. We're going to be doing, as Senator Warner has warned us, fairly,