

governmental subdivisions. I would suggest that we not adopt the Higgins amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: Question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Higgins, would you like to close, please?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. As I pointed out when probably half the Chamber was empty and I see many of the senators are still not here, I could ask for a call of the house, but I won't at this time. This amendment does not say to reduce state aid. It just says it is the intent of the Legislature that reductions to state aid to education should result in those reductions being not in programs, not in the essentials of education, but in the frills. And I thank Senator Abboud for pointing out that what I'm merely trying to do is help the frustration all of us feel at being blamed for high property taxes. And as my handout pointed out, one of the things Senator Goodrich never addressed was the 79 parking lots we have in our Omaha School Districts, 79, 58 of them in elementary schools where they can't even drive. It is true the City of Omaha built the tennis courts and a couple of the swimming pools, but the City of Omaha every year for the last six years has had a surplus in their budget so they didn't raise the taxes. They used the money for public facilities but the schools are maintaining them I understand and I think it's nice that we have those things. We have them in public parks also and I think it's good that the Omaha city administration is cooperating with the schools and the schools vice versa. But I get back again and again to nobody answered the question, if the population of the Omaha School District students has decreased 33 1/3 percent, you can't tell me that some of the administration should not have been decreased. And yet all I'm told is, well, that's because we've got so many lawsuits going. I don't believe we need that many attorneys and I don't think we have that many lawsuits going. If we do, something is wrong with the school district if we have that many lawsuits going