

May 22, 1975

PRESIDENT: Read the motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, I move to pass LB 368 into law not withstanding the objection of the Governor. Signed, Senator Koch.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body. I know that we've had a serious discussion on football tickets, but to add a little levity to that aspect of it, one of the reasons I ran for the Legislature was to get a seat at the football stadium. Now we're about to take it away. Getting to serious matters at hand we're talking about LB 368 and 368A. To refresh you, when we sent it to the Governor it had 34 votes. I would, as you people know during the discussion of Senator Warner's resolution, I was visiting with you individually. Many of you have assured me that your vote hasn't changed. There are several of you who appear to have a position, at present, neither negative nor positive. You know that my profession is education. I'm standing here before you this afternoon speaking I think on behalf of educational opportunities for the boys and girls of this state. You may say that's an old cliché, but it's not an old cliché, it's a fact of life. I know, having visited with the superintendents across this state, that they are in the process right now of cutting staff programs simply because they're not going to be able to muster the budget off the property tax. Even that wealthy district that I once taught in, known as the school of golden basketball hoops and silk uniforms and the best of everything, has its financial problems today beyond what most people believe. If Westside is one of those schools that have financial problems then certainly there have got to be many others across this state. It's difficult for me to restrain myself in view of the Governor's, what I think, rather shallow remarks regarding state aid. I passed out to you earlier in this session what state aid means to schools presently getting it. I think there is no doubt that we really ought to show the Governor what state aid means and we should bring back the bill and strike state aid totally, and put it on the property tax. Then I think we'd all realize that there would be an absolute relief on property tax by aid to the public schools. You know it, I know it. I guess our decision here this afternoon, Senator Marsh and fellow colleagues, is whether or not we want to foist upon the public or pass the buck because it has money involved. I think we know where our obligation is. Our obligation is to say to the people: you need an additional \$15 million this year, otherwise what I feel to be the most regressive tax will really be in force and that's tax on property. Philosophically I think the tax on property is more regressive than other kinds of taxes because it prevents many people from owning their own private home. I just can't believe the Governor