

April 10, 1979

LB 16

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, Senator Carsten, I guess what you are asking me is this part of our tax structure and I don't know how I can deny that. That is... I mean any time you raise money from one source it is, in fact, part of the tax structure.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Newell. I think what Senator Newell has said is very true and inasmuch as we are at a point where it appears that we need to reexamine that which we have done over several years, it would appear to me that this subject matter is very well within that realm of analyzation that we are going to be doing this summer. It would appear to me to do this type of procedure at this point might very well be a little premature. I'm not saying that it does not have foundation. I am not sure that we should ever have done it to begin with but in spite of all of that, I believe that we will be looking at this along with many other things this summer and perhaps from that we will then be able to make some recommendations that we believe are just and should be done. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members of the body, I would have a question or two of Senator Newell first and then some comments if he would yield.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell, will you respond?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: You gave a bunch of figures when you gave your presentation about the different levels of income of families. What percentage of the total families in Nebraska are in these categories? Do you have any figures on that? How many are considered in below \$10,000 a year in their income? Do you have anything on that?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Kahle, as I recall the median family income is approximately \$14,000. That is the median. Now the average is somewhere around \$11,000. Now as to percentages per category that I have written out here I do not have that information.

SENATOR KAHLE: Do you know how many families receive food stamps in the state or even an estimate?

SENATOR NEWELL: I could give you an estimate, Senator