

April 25, 1979

LB 285

years and pick the average of that for their increase before they have to go to a vote of the people.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Koch, with that explanation I will support your amendment, not only because of the problem that you have in your end of the state, but I see consolidation taking place. I see school districts going together in various ways and means, and I see population growth in other towns in the state of Nebraska because of various reasons that I talked about before. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP:(microphone not activated).

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question's been called for. All those... do I see five hands? I see five hands. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no. The question is, shall debate cease?

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch, I recognize you to close on your amendment.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have tried to say so that you understand it, first of all, you must show and demonstrate five percent or more in growth. That's the first factor, and there are not many subdivisions of government that are going to be able to demonstrate this. Secondly, you would be able to use your last three years of your increased costs and take the one that you thought was most favorable to you, rather than use the ratchet year. If that were 16 percent you could use it, but you couldn't add the over 5 percent growth factor onto that. You see, in the case of Millard, which I gave as an example, their next year's budget they figure the most they can go is 14.25 percent, yet their budget demands are such that they're going to need at least 17 percent. There is just no way... and let me give you an example. They'll have increased costs of transportation next year of \$235,000 on one item. They'll open new school buildings where they will have to have a whole new staff...40 people more. Those are all new costs, and so I'm saying to you this is not a nonrealistic amendment to this piece of legislation, but if we're going to hold them on the line as the people who have declining enrollments but they still get 7, plus their best ratchet year, I'll tell you what, I'd sooner be on the declining