

April 30, 1979

LB 494

dollars that are paid back. On a per pupil basis it figures out to about \$300 per pupil difference. Now I fail to understand how that we, the people of the State of Nebraska, can value certain pupils in this state \$300 higher than others. My contention is that a pupil to the State of Nebraska is worth the same amount no matter where they live. This is not going to make the cost of education to a small local school district out there in the country or out in rural Nebraska very easy because the price per pupil out there is still going to be considerably higher than the local taxpayer has to raise than it will in the urban areas. Now I hate very much to make this a rural-urban split. I have looked up at that board many times this year and wondered just exactly where I live by the way I was voting and I would hope the urban people would look at this as a statewide picture and not simply a dollar and cent figure in their own area. Quite frankly the people in my district would just as soon not have state aid to education at all if we can't get a fair and equitable distribution of that state aid dollar. I urge your support of LB 494.

SENATOR NICHOL PRESIDING

SENATOR NICHOL: The Chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I have an amendment up there that if you read that it might get to the point at hand.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lewis moves to amend LB 494 by adding a new section as follows: All funds appropriated by the state shall be on a per capita basis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I am certainly impressed by Senator Vickers remarks, that we certainly need to appropriate money notwithstanding any kind of conditions. It simply ought to go back on a per capita basis whether it is to schools, personal property tax relief, highway fund relief, mental health service relief, any of those kind of things. We consistently have tried to say all right, the mental health needs in Scottsbluff County may be more than they are in Omaha because of where it is located or it may be more to educate a handicapped child in some other place and use the appropriate state money. Most of us have been around this horn before every session in terms of how we put out money. Most of us know the weakness in terms of where we receive dollars from the state. Senator Keyes and I divide Highway 73-75 and except for a short piece of 131, that is all the road I have so our gas tax money is not quite