

May 3, 1979

LB 285

that what we have in that amendment that you adopted is reasonable, and contrary to what some people believe, it does not punch holes in the lid bill which would allow local subdivisions of government to spend wildly and irresponsibly. I submit to you that the local subdivisions of government many times have no control over those things that I put in the amendment which are basically the utilities, fuel, energy problems along with pensions and FICA, things of that nature, because too often retirement systems are tied to a system that has been set up by the state and actuarially to keep it sound there are increases that must necessarily be picked up by the local subdivision of government. All of you know that I am sure. So I am saying that when I submitted this amendment I submitted it in good faith and it is the amendment I submitted a year ago on LB 1 and I still think it is appropriate now. I get so frustrated with limitations and we are trying to fix a bill so everyone will have an equal chance but I oftentimes think we should go back to LB 1 and let the people line up at the ballot boxes and vote because possibly then the people would understand that you cannot solve a problem by a simple solutions and that is all limitations are, they are simplistic political gimmicks because we hear people concerned about the irresponsible spending of the local governments, when in fact, I think the general public is concerned more with the federal government in terms of its inaction as it tries to cool down the economy, cool off inflation. Inflation is the culprit, absolutely, and there is nothing else. I know many subdivisions of government, city, county and schools. I know the people who operate them both elected and administeringwise and I don't think I have ever observed many irresponsible reckless spenders. In fact in some cases, they are probably too frugal, and as a result, in the end, the public is going to be taxed to a greater extent than ever before simply because they do not solve their immediate problems trying to save dollars and tax dollars. I will give you a good example, one we are all familiar with, and that is the City of Omaha. Their street problems, their sewer problems, innumerable things, but because of the frugality of former administrations and city councilmen, those same problems are there and they are compounding the problem each day because they have not seen fit to apply tax dollars to take care of the needs now rather than tomorrow. If you think asphalt is getting any cheaper, you are wrong. It is getting more expensive by the day. It is going to continue to do so. If you think concrete is any cheaper today than it was yesterday, you are wrong. Look at the issue last year when the various industries could not get concrete. It was unavailable. Yet the prices zoomed. Who was responsible for that? Business, or were the local subdivisions of govern-

4581