

March 20, 1980

LB 627

the voters to take off immediately what they just did and this is the reason I move to indefinitely postpone LB 627. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are speaking to that motion, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, when these lid propositions first came up I had very little to say because there was an atmosphere of hysteria based on what had happened in California. Some people saw an opportunity to latch on to a political bandwagon and the Legislature acted with what I feel was precipitate haste. It shouldn't have occurred and I think because what Senator Burrows indicated is his intention, the discussion of his kill motion can take on somewhat of a philosophical flavor. We are not talking about the specifics of this bill but the principle as to whether or not by a vote of the people a lid can be imposed on these various governmental subdivisions. When you take numbers out of the air like seven, it is almost like a crap game but at least in craps there is some significance to the number seven. In the lid game, whether it is in Nebraska or California, there is no rational basis for the number which is accepted or chosen in any instance. I am opposed to Senator Burrows kill motion and I will agree with him to this extent. The bills that passed were a game, Senator Burrows, and the way I feel to clean up that game is to take the lids off altogether. I am often told about local control meaning that the elected officials should bear the responsibility for their actions that they place while administering the jobs that they were elected to fulfill. So to take the populous which you know is hard pressed and uptight about how much everything is costing and give to them without information and understanding of what it costs to run government, the power to dictate that an amount less than what is needed to properly run the government will be the limit, I think is a mistake and I think it is irresponsibility on the part of the Legislature. Regardless of what the public says on a complex issue our responsibility is not to reflect ignorance. If we are in possession of information that the public does not have, our votes and our practices in the Legislature should reflect that additional information that we have. We know that everything costs more money. On the one hand your constituents will come to you and complain about certain programs being cut out whether it is by a city, a school board or whatever else may face a lid and there will be condemnation sometimes by a senator of the Legislature for imposing the lid and that senator may have voted to impose the lid but it gives