

we have apparently become much wiser than we were then but really what we did do was take the pressure off them until the force of the people's petition had expended itself and now we will come sliding in the back door, changing every statement that we made when we adopted the bill initially. I would recommend to this body irregardless of what you do, and my wife says there is no such thing as irregardless, but regardless of what you do, let's reduce it to one issue, create whatever monster we are going to create but do it just once instead of twice. I would support Senator Burrows' motion for that reason if for no other.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President and members of the body, I support Senator Burrows' motion, having sat in on the hearing. I wish you all could have been at that hearing but at this hearing practically everyone that testified in favor of 627 also said they supported 609. So I think there is very little feeling in regard to which one of these we put through. I think that the public will accept 609 in a much simpler form. Also I would like to make one little statement. Senator Chambers said that the lid is no good, that we should have moved it. I disagree with Senator Chambers very much here. I have talked to a lot of schools in the past two months and they tell me how much money they have whacked off their budget. They have whacked their budget down to a bare minimum. If that isn't working, what is? I think we have got these people now conscious of the fact that we mean business. We have to save this money. We have to watch how we spend their money and I think we have a lot of school boards that is very conscious of how they are spending their money and I think that this has worked to no degree. I would like to have a record of how many dollars have been whacked off of budgets. I bet it would surprise you. It goes into the millions but I think we've got our point across and I am ready now to lift the lid but I think that from now on they will watch what is going on in a much finer manner and so I think that I will support 609. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney and then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of Senator Burrows' motion to indefinitely postpone LB 627 and the real issue here, ladies and gentlemen, is not the budget limitation imposed on the Omaha Public School system or the Nebraska City School system but on initiative petition, ladies and gentlemen, the right of people to petition their government through the initiative