

March 20, 1980

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mentality reflects an inability to understand the complicated problems of this state and for Nebraska City and Omaha to live another year under a lid bill will irreparably harm a great number of young boys and girls because even if they were to get out of that lid which is zero, and we are trying to pick up at 7%, they can't catch up. Now I remind you other people in here, having served in city government of a small nature, knowing many small schools, they budget right down to the nub and hope they come out with an even line at the end of the year which is zero zero and those people who have been prudently financing their schools in recent years are the ones that are going to be harmed the greatest. Certainly some schools have carried some cash reserve but that is under law which we allow and there is no more fat in the Omaha budget and if you don't believe it you better take a look at what that board is looking at. They are looking at an additional \$15,000,000 cut in their budget. They are looking at shortening class hours. They are looking at cutting out a lot of resources they need in human talent and help certain children with unique learning needs. Look at Nebraska City and I am surprised at Senator Carsten who didn't stay at that meeting the other night, it bothers me, when he had a group of school board members and superintendents. I didn't have to go there because that is not my constituency. They asked us how we are going to vote on the lid and several of us said we are going to stick with it in spite of the consequences which may be a way when we run again for reelection. I am willing to take that risk because I happen to believe that those who are older today who are voting against public schools forget from whence their bread will come tomorrow and if we are going to support the elderly in the fashion in which they want to be supported, then they had better look at those that are going to provide the tax to maintain some comfortable living standards. I have never voted against the elderly on this floor and I never will when I know they need it and they are deserving of it in terms of what they have given to this nation and this state. I am a little tired of those though who want to compromise and I don't intend to compromise on this bill one iota. If you want to that, is your prerogative. I think one year under sunset is appropriate. We believe in representative government, then let's say we believe in it. If we impose it upon an elective body then we will say, one year try it, but each year you have a right to limit your budget as you so desire and if you are a spend-thrift and you are irresponsible then the people have a shot at you every so often for reelection and I notice now in Omaha where those who support the lid and most of those are quite wealthy as I look at them, they are now

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