

April 2, 1980

LB 609

discussion? All those in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 8 ayes, 23 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion lost.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have an amendment from Senator Stoney and it is on page 1290 of the Journal.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I am also having the pages circulate that amendment for your ease in studying it. What the amendment would accomplish would be to maintain the provisions of LB 609 as it was introduced and take into consideration the one exception that is not included in LB 627, the one that Senator Johnson addressed in his remarks, that being relative to the imposition of the limitation and the date on which the election would have to be held being established at July 15th rather than a hundred and twenty days prior to the budget being established. Ladies and gentlemen, I think that this is an equitable way to address this particular issue. Again, to give you a historical perspective, in 1978 during the special session, those of you in this body who were serving at that time know that there was tremendous pressure from a group that was circulating a petition to establish a constitutional lid as it pertained to budget limitations. There were a number of reasons why people in this body at that time supported that proposal or opposed it. I think the two major reasons that individuals were supportive of what was accomplished in LB 2, the local option tax control act, was that, number one, they would much rather have addressed this issue statutorily than have it established in Constitution because we know that once it is established in Constitution it is very, very difficult to change. Also there were other people that believed that there should be a restriction on budget limitations, and feeling that sometimes elected officials the were perhaps not sensitive to what people were saying, that they would provide the people of the State of Nebraska opportunity through initiative petition to impact on those budget limitations. Now I have to say on the floor, as I have been advising individuals who have written to me on this issue, that it is more than just the budget limitation that has been imposed on the Omaha Public School District and also that in Nebraska City. I think more importantly, ladies and gentlemen, we are looking at the true issue of initiative petition and whether or not we believe in