

April 2, 1980

LB 609

that process. Now if we believe in that process, through adopting this amendment we will create equity so that those who presently oppose the limitation would have an opportunity through the initiative process to have a special election held to see if that budget could be altered. Now I circulated in addition to the amendment a study or a survey which has been conducted in the Omaha Public School area relative to the lid proposition and you will note that on July 5th, 1979 this question was asked. "If an election were held today to place a zero percentage spending lid on the Omaha Public School budget, would you vote for the lid or against the lid?" And if you will follow those figures that have been outlined in red, you will find that in the Omaha Public School forty-four percent of the people surveyed said that they were for a position of such a lid, twenty-seven against, twenty-nine undecided. Now that same question was asked on January 28th and 29th of this year. "If a similar election were held today to place a zero percent spending lid on Omaha Public School budget, would you vote for the lid or against that proposition?" Again going to the column on the far right underlined in green, you will find that only forty percent said that they would favor that proposal and forty-seven percent said that they would be against imposition of a zero percentage budget limitation. I think, ladies and gentlemen, that that is indicative that there has been an attitudinal change in the Omaha Public School District relative to this particular issue and I think if we are really honest with ourselves, if we want to maintain the integrity of the initiative petition process, and, yes, if we want to maintain the integrity and credibility of this body which all of us are concerned with, we are very concerned about the imagine that this Legislature has, then I think that we will look favorably on this amendment so that individuals will know that when they were given the opportunity to express themselves through initiative this legislative body meant what it said. It didn't mean that two years later due to budget limitations imposed through this process that we would be here and take that right away from the individuals and make statutory change. So again to maintain the integrity of the initiative petition process, to maintain the credibility of this body, I urge you to adopt the amendments offered to LB 609.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell. Senator Reutzel. Senator Keyes, Senator Hefner.