

April 10, 1980

LB 1002

I have Catholic schools. I have Lutheran schools. I have Baptist schools. I have Episcopalian and I have Methodist in my district and we do not send one penny back to them. Why don't we send one penny back to them? We send it back on a formula that helps the public schools. Now I want to tell you this. There is only one way to take that surplus that is in the treasury and you can say it is \$20 million. As of today we have \$99 million, so many hundred thousand dollars. That is as of day before yesterday. I don't have yesterday's in yet but there is going to be anywhere, depending on how you take the sinking fund, you take the money that is shortage from last year, the reappropriations and other things, you can do it anyway you want to, but when the kitty goes around the first day of July or the 3rd day of July there will be approximately \$70 million in the kitty. You can have it submitted at \$20 million next year, \$35 million for carryover that we have to have. You can lower that carry over to two or three percent. It makes no difference, but if you want to do what is right with that money, it was paid by the people of this state through the sales tax and the income tax, take and return it to every single person, forget about state aid to schools, forget about personal property tax redemptions, just go and send that money back to the people of this state who have paid it. They are the ones that deserve the money and they can still pay their own taxes, they can spend it on food, they can do anything they want to. We have a list of every man, woman and child in this state. Take and divide that, Senator Warner, by the amount of money that is in there and let the State Board of Equalization write out their checks and send it back to them. It is the only fair way to do. You are not going to write any bill that is fair or help DeCamp one bit. You are not going to find it. I am telling you how you can do it and be fair to every man, woman and child. If you don't want to do that, do it however you see fit because we are going to defeat ourselves at the next election. We are not going to be able to come back to this Legislature and say, hey, boy, we did you a good job. We collected some \$60 to \$70 million more money than we needed and we sent it back to schools and that went back to the property owners on a certain formula but what did it do to the ones that don't have children in school, that don't own property, that all the way up and down the line are out of it. So, my friends, get this money and either cut the taxes, either cut the sales tax and the income tax or else distribute that money on a person to person basis.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.