

April 10, 1980

LB 1002

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, Mr. President, Senator Koch just gave us five or seven minutes of pure bull, rhetoric. Now I support Omaha getting their problem solved. It has nothing to do with rural-urban split. It has to do with reality and reality is there is \$55 million right now and the reason there is even a problem, the reason we are even talking about it is super simple, something called reevaluation. Now there are two ways to address it, two ways, and two ways are before the Legislature only one of them has never been discussed. One, you change a formula so that the big losers under reevaluation get more money, but if you only have \$55 million, if you have \$55 million, you still have got to have losers. In this case the losers would be the rurals. So to "hold harmless" Senator Koch is doing the most reasonable thing which is you pour a pile of additional money in, twenty, forty, sixty million. So from being in big losers positions, in other words if you just deal with \$55 million, Omaha and Lincoln, certain others, are big, big losers. So from being in big losers positions and there are certain other schools, rurals, in big winners positions, you take Omaha and Lincoln and you make them in super big winners positions and rurals hold even positions because you have used additional money. There is a simpler solution, a more honest, direct solution. That solution is you forget about formulas for one year. You say distribute the \$55 million precisely as this column pretends or alleges or suggests it is going to be distributed. You just say these school districts get this much. You hold everybody harmless with your \$55 million. You don't need any additional money. You come back next year and you face up to the fact that we have to redo the tax system. That is the straightforward honest way. For ten years, and I have helped the education all the way, for ten years we have played this numbers game of \$20 million here, \$40 million here, new bills here. Who has won? They haven't gotten a thing done. The only additional money, the only additional money was \$20 million that Frank Lewis and some others got in there, federal funds, that is the only additional money and property taxes have gone up. And, Senator Koch, I admire you for continually working on this. By the same token, don't kid yourself if you think state aid, property taxes, 882, which is the inventory reimbursement which has to do with property taxes, formulas aren't all related. Well, I won't say it but you know they are all related. Now my concern, as I stated it at the beginning, is simply this. If you take this additional money, if you take this additional money, twenty or forty million, and you put it strictly into state aid, all you are basically doing, all you are basically doing, and you have a change in

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