

April 18, 1980

LB 627

want to legislate, then we shouldn't be here. If we are going to hide behind the power on the throne over in the northwest corner or whatever that corner is and use that as a scapegoat, the northeast corner, then I suggest that probably none of us should be reelected, even though I know a number are running for reelection. I have been taught in the years that I have been in education and also the years that I have lived, from my parents and others, that the measure of an individual is where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at the time of challenge and controversy, intimidation and pressure, even when they lose their prestige, they will make a stand. I happen to believe in people elected to high office. They have to demonstrate that courage every so often. Young people today who are being held hostage, and I don't like to use that word, but I am reminded of a cartoon recently, don't have the right to vote. They are victims of either our inaction or the misinformation of others who impose a very severe penalty upon them. For us to walk away today because we received some pressure in the last twenty-four hours or more, I think, is not good business, nor is it of good character. This is a tough vote. I know it is. You hear all kinds of remarks which are not accurate nor true. A gentleman who said he was a professor of political science at UCLA called me last night and talked to me an hour about constitutionality and said he was an expert on it, accused me of carrying bills that were unconstitutional. He said that I bordered on a Communist even though I might be just a Socialist, and I said to him, which kind of Socialism...there are seventeen types. But he was using the word carelessly. Now those of you who have a concern that the bill technically might exempt Falls City and Allen, if the people there enact that kind of a lid, I have a statement from both of those Boards of Education saying that whatever the people vote in the election they will live with it even though 627 technically might exempt them. The day we played a game here we didn't put the emergency clause on LB 627 and that hurt us, and when you are playing games with peoples' lives you can't recover them, and I am saying to put schools like Allen and Falls City and Omaha and Nebraska City and possibly many others under a lid that is zero will be the most devastating thing that happens to boys and girls and you can't recover that lost time. There are schools today that live under seven percent lids and you look at Ponca, look at other schools that have already put out what they are going to cut, and I will tell you they are cutting some programs that do nothing but just really damage young people. For us to sit here and

10350