

March 4, 1981

LB 390

maybe Senator Newell wants all the marbles, the bag of marbles and so forth, including the whole sack, I feel like. Senator Carsten had made a comment about Senator DeCamp and his magic wand. As far as I am concerned, Senator DeCamp had nothing to do with the bill that came out. I actually supported 524. It was probably a compromise within the committee to see which one was going to come out. I would like to have seen 524 come out because it has got some good concepts. It has got some long range concepts. I have tried to understand some of the Omaha problems since I have been down here, and it really looks like sometimes it gets to be a lopsided affair, and I just kind of urge you to take a good look at things and give us some consideration out there, and I oppose this motion.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, first of all, I want you to take a look at the proposal that has been passed out by Senator Carsten, which refers to LB 882, the 80-20 valuation and the LB 882 amounts budgeted. Senator Carsten said that he called your attention to the fact that you are not bringing to the floor the 80-20 version, but most of the people in this body think that that is what is coming to the floor. The fact is you are bringing to the floor the 50-50 version. As has been pointed out by Senator Lamb and several others here, the 80-20 is merely a little bit of a carrot to suck in a few unsuspecting people secure in the illusion that when you get it to the floor you have 80-20 all right, ladies and gentlemen, but the figures will be reversed and eventually it will be all population. Now, remember last year as Senator Haberman pointed out when we found out that the Omaha school districts and the Lincoln districts weren't nearly as poor as they had purported themselves to be for many, many years, we quickly rewrote the formula to favor those districts again, and you didn't find any problem with the rural areas because we recognized the peculiar problems that persist in urban education and the vast responsibility that you have and we recognized it. Under the personal property tax exemption, this Legislature made a commitment to return to the subdivisions the funds they lost as a result of those exemptions. We did not talk about dividing up a new kind of a pie. We said we would hold you harmless, we would return to you those funds you lost. It became apparent to me after several years that it was going to become increasingly difficult to