

March 4, 1981

LB 390

call on Senator Nichol after that.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I am one of those individuals that changed his mind on the 80-20 formula. I am one of those individuals that asked to receive the figures on the budgeted amounts under LB 882. I figured that if we could look at those figures, and I invite you to look at those figures, we would know a little better what the problem was as far as the subdivisions of government are concerned. And I would ask you to look at Douglas County where they budgeted \$8,864,000; under 284 they will get \$12,569,000; under LB 390 they will get \$15,482,000. Does Douglas County need twice as much money as they budgeted? Look at Lancaster County. Lancaster County budgeted \$4,574,000. Under 284 they get \$6,885,000; under 390 they get \$7,819,000. Does Lancaster County need twice as much money? The same thing is true with Sarpy County. There is an old saying, the root of all evil is money, and I think that is the root of the problem today, is money. I think we have got to be realistic enough. I can look at Hall County. I can see that we would get more money out of 390, but I think as a Senator on this floor I have to be fair, and I think we have to be fair with our rural friends as well as with the urban people. I am realistic enough to realize that Grand Island wouldn't exist if it weren't for agriculture. I don't know what you Omaha people think, but I can tell you, you wouldn't exist in this state if it wasn't for agriculture. So it is time for us to wake up to the fact that agriculture is basic to this state.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, and then Senator Sieck. Is Senator Sieck in the room?

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Rumery just told me, Senator Howard Peterson, that the love of money is the root of all evil. Now he is the biblical authority and I am not, so I just passed this to you for what it is worth. This has been very interesting to me this morning and I have been watching as some of you who have been talking and I have been looking at the figures and it almost invariably held true with the exception of Senator Burrows that the formula you were in favor of did your county or your area or several counties the most good. I don't pick at you for that. I would do that too if I had a formula that would do me any good. Now someone mentioned a while ago that they would go with a fair formula. I don't think that is what they meant at all. I think