

had it in a bank, would have earned interest or income the same as the state had on it. And so if you look at it that way, it could very reasonably be argued, that is their money, the profits.

SENATOR KOCH: I understand that, Senator DeCamp, however, it is going to be very difficult if we are looking at equity and giving it back to the various subdivisions. It is extremely difficult and I think we are better off to keep the \$2,000,000 here, send the \$70,000,000 as soon as we can. We need thirty-three votes to do it and get it out to them as soon as possible and don't hold it in an injunction situation again.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner. Senator Lowell Johnson.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, my concern for a prompt consideration and approval of LB 284 without further amendment, stems from the fact that Nebraska governmental subdivisions are waiting for and are needing their respective shares of these \$70,000,000. We are nearing the time after April 5 when five of the seven equal payments should have already been paid to our cities, our counties, school districts and other local governments. Yes, we are indeed in arrears on a bona fide obligation. Once again, this great body has its credibility at stake. Nebraskans are watching and waiting, waiting now through fifty-four legislative days for some kind of a positive response. Through these fifty-four days \$70,000,000 have been held hostage while this group or that group attempts to tinker with a distribution formula to gain some dollar advantage or some issue advantage. I believe we should act now on the basis of some simple facts at hand and they include that there are only thirty-six more legislative days left in this first session of the 87th Legislature. The vehicle which the Revenue Committee forged to distribute the \$70,000,000 is LB 284. You recall Revenue Committee hearings also held on LB 390 and an attempt was subsequently made to raise this bill from committee. The attempt failed. The formula for distribution as Senator DeCamp has already indicated is simple. It is understandable. There is no game playing involved, no complicated formulas to foment wheeling and dealing in solution to the problem, no manipulation or maneuvering, just an honest, simple solution and LB 284 is reported to be constitutional. Government units all over Nebraska are waiting for this money. I urge you to support LB 284 in its present form. We don't need any more amendments to cloud its constitutionality. We don't need any more amendments to put \$70,000,000 in the rightful hands of our waiting and long suffering government's subdivisions. I hope that this \$70,000,000 will not be held hostage any longer. Thank you, Mr. President.