

April 7, 1981

LB 284

have to really get down to the issue of how best to resolve it. We are trying to phase in. First year we distribute the money basically as close to 882 as we possibly can. We get a weighted formula for agricultural land. The arguments that Senator DeCamp make and that I made and that others who understood this agreement made said, "Look, we have local governments who have budgeted for this money and, frankly, this money is what they expect and so we should this year try to distribute the money on that basis. Next year we will go to what Senator DeCamp had suggested", and that was the question of valuation. "The third year we get to 90-10 and then we resolve the issue and work it out either to the Revenue Committee under Senator Carsten's good offices and the Revenue Committee's desire to try to find some plan." It is not to say that we won't ever go, Senator DeCamp, to the Schmit revenue sharing formula. It is not to say that we are going to go to that formula either. But there are many of us for various reasons who are a little ill at ease to lock something in three years down the road which we really haven't totally come to grips with or even understand right now. There is a great deal of...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR NEWELL: ...questions and problems with doing away with the local option tax in those cities of Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, North Platte, Sidney. All these cities have the sales tax and they rely on that to provide property tax relief and so there is a great hesitancy to say we are going to lock ourselves into that down the road. What we are trying to do here and what our amendment does, and I think it is an amendment we still have some allegiance to or we should have allegiance to. Everyone has agreed. Senator DeCamp has basically agreed that the amendment is the preferable amendment. We ought to adopt that amendment right now. Three years down the road this whole issue will come back up. We will have to argue it, discuss it. We may go to a revenue sharing plan. We may not.

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up.

SENATOR NEWELL: But we need to deal with this issue now. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to, since I guess we are not going to vote on whether or not to lay the bill over, but I rise to make my position clear in regard to this bill and I would say at the outset