

any time, I should say, the school board could have introduced a resolution to put the issue on the ballot again without going through any petition drive or whatever to remove the lid. I myself, if it was on the ballot would vote to remove the lid. I don't especially approve of a zero percent lid. But I do approve of the peoples right to vote and the school board did have the opportunity at any time in the last two years to introduce a resolution to remove the lid but they chose not to do so. I think that we should have come up with a bill, as Senator Koch mentioned, that bring the rules and regulations that would be equitable for all. But, in as much as we did include removing the lid from the Omaha School District and Nebraska City, I think it is wrong, we should have allowed, and the school board should have had enough gumption to introduce a resolution allowing the people to remove the lid themselves. The polls do show that there is a turn about, they would have removed the lid and if we want to establish credibility, which we need badly in this Legislature, we should allow the people to remove the lid themselves and I'm confident they would have done so. But right now again, in the correspondence that I am getting we are now taking away their right to vote. We gave them the authority to vote on it and now, as someone mentioned on the floor, what the Legislature giveth they take it away and I think it is wrong. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I too support Senator Stoney on his amendment. I think this Legislature is going to lose more credibility than we have lost in the past with the people. I have sat at public hearings and then gone into executive session and have been told, we are going to kill this bill because it is a local issue. It is like so much sounding brass in your ears, when the senators say, lets not interfere with local issues. Lets let them solve their own problems. Then what do they do? The people voted for the lid, I agree with Senator Labeledz, I agree with Senator Koch, you can't operate a business from one year to the next in these inflationary times on a zero percent. But, by the same token, how many of you live in Omaha? And, know what the school system is doing there. I once got a woman out on parole that spoke two languages and I got her a job with the Omaha School Systems as a teachers aide. After a month she came to me and said, Mrs. Higgins, I really thought that I was going to be able to do something, but as a teachers aide I go in every morning and I bake cookies for kindergarden and I pour their milk.