

May 4, 1981

LB 561

boys and girls of the State of Nebraska public education. I submit to you this is one way to try to help it. I ask for the adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, once again to merely acknowledge what the affect of the amendment will be. I think Senator Koch pointed out the way it is written is similar to last year. It gives the Governor the option of vetoing ten or twenty or none and the option of the Legislature to override a portion if they so choose to do so. I will oppose the amendment for a number of reasons. The same reasons I suspect I will use a few more times before the day is over. Number one is that we have been repeatedly discussing, talking about the fact that substantial change in federal funding is imminent for next year, that the state is going to have maximum flexibility to meet those conditions that may or may not arise from federal action. We have to keep things pretty neat and tucked this year as far as appropriations are concerned. The committee recommended no capital construction of any major projects in part for that very reason. Secondly, the recommendation intends not to have any impact on sales-income tax rates currently. There is no question that if we adopt this amendment that it will affect probably the income tax rates or sales tax rates fifteen days after the Legislature adjourns because if you look on the green sheet there is no conceivable way under existing receipts that this level of appropriation, even at the \$10 million level can be met particularly if you have got a group of other A bills that you are going to also want to enact or other increases in appropriations as they stand before you out of the committee bills. I will vote no on the amendment, as difficult as that may be for me, because at the current time I think the priority of this body needs to be that of staying within existing programs, minimum expansion if any, in terms of dollars. While you can disagree with some of the priorities established within the recommendations, I think it is exceedingly difficult to disagree with the overall goal as far as what the consensus of the people of this state probably feel and that overall goal is to stay within existing sales and income tax rates and not to appropriate to force an adjustment in those rates. Last year receipts were running higher, and I supported an increase in state aid last year at the \$40 million level. It did not have an adverse effect on rates but that condition is not here this year. As I pointed out before, receipts are down through March. They