

February 19, 1982

LB 454

Senator Newell would move to return LB 454 to Select File for a specific amendment that amendment being Request #2634. The members will find it in their bill books.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I will not take a great deal of time on this. However, it is a very important measure. It is a measure of some importance to the people of the State of Nebraska. As many of you know, I have opposed 454 because, in my opinion, it will allow us to raise the tax rates far too easily. It will allow the State Board of Equalization to inch them up year by year and I think that responsibility and the appropriate spending is the responsibility of the Legislature and that we must make these considerations as a full Legislature not passing them on as a mechanical process to the State Board of Equalization, that we will watch our spending, we will set priorities that are of interest to the people of the state when and only if we set the tax rates ourselves. This proposal says that the Legislature shall set the tax rates. It also has a provision that says that the Speaker, Chairman of the Revenue Committee, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Chairman of the Committee on Committees, will come together, and the Chairman of the Exec Board, will come together to recommend a Special Session if a Special Session is necessary to adjust the tax rates. This is the preferable way to go on this whole question of setting tax rates, not the mechanical and somewhat too political a process of letting the State Board of Equalization do it. I offer this to the Legislature and the reason I offer it is because this issue must be addressed, should be addressed and the members of this body ought to have an opportunity to be on record, on record on whether they want to fess up to what they actually do, setting tax rates by spending, if they want to be honest about setting the tax rates here on the legislative floor like every other state in the Union does. I urge the adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion at the moment is to return the bill. Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak to that motion?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes, a little bit, but I need a little information from the Speaker, possibly Senator Newell first. The way you have described this amendment, it is a pretty major concept, completely different from the bill.