

March 17, 1982

LB 629

burden on property. I would like to ask Senator Hefner a question.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Hefner, would you yield? Senator Hefner.

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator Hefner, you spoke in behalf of this bill and as I understand it you sit on the committee that heard this bill. Is that correct?

SENATOR HEFNER: That is correct.

SENATOR DWORAK: Could I ask you, Senator Hefner, how the newspapers arrived at the 30% figure? Did they point out to the committee specific costs justifying the 30% increase or is that just an arbitrary figure?

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Dworak, they did prove that some costs have gone up more than 30%.

SENATOR DWORAK: Specifically what costs? How did they arrive and prove to the committee that 30% was justifiable? What are the percentages of increases?

SENATOR HEFNER: Paper costs have gone up tremendously. I think they cited a couple hundred percent. Labor has gone up. I think they cited that labor has gone up over the last eleven years approximately 70 or 80%.

SENATOR DWORAK: Have any costs gone down?

SENATOR HEFNER: They didn't mention any costs going down, no.

SENATOR DWORAK: Well, then is 30% adequate, Senator Hefner, if paper costs have gone up 200% and labor costs have gone up 70 or 80% or should we be asking for a greater percentage of increase?

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Dworak, postage has gone up terrifically, from a dollar forty cents per month to a hundred and twenty dollars per month.

SENATOR DWORAK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. In the litany it just seems to me that the 30% figure is arbitrary. We're talking about a 200% increase here, a 70 or 80% there. How did we arrive at the 30%? I don't think we've made that point. I think it is a poor year to put this increase on the property taxpayers of Nebraska and that is just