

March 18, 1982

LB 816

I voted for it. It was kind of a weak vote. I had some misgivings about it but my feeling was more to get something out here on the floor so we could look at it and possibly even amend and after I received many letters from schools, counties, that the impact of 816 as it is right now would have upon them, it just became very evident that there is just no way that I could support 816 in its present form. I really don't think it is fair at this point and I really can't support it in the form that it is right there, so at this point I would be opposed to 816 and thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I oppose 816 in its present form and of course with the amendment, the amendment basically does the same thing. In other words it wipes out all our distribution formulas now and for all practical purposes, if you come from any place other than Omaha and Lincoln, I don't think there is a hell of a lot of reason to come back once you do this. Because first of all you will have acknowledged that we're the only state in the United States where our district judges says population is the only thing in the world that we can deal with in here so that is what it has to be on everything we deal with. That is about where we are at. I think we have to find out what our limitations are in that court. Now I am going to offer an amendment to extend our existing formula for one year and, indeed, I full well recognize the risks that we might have to have a special session but I assure you, the risks of doing anything else and circumscribing your rights as legislators for the foreseeable future because of folding immediately and not even finding out from the Supreme Court which would have to have five justices say we were wrong instead of one district judge who happens to be from Lincoln all his life, I think if you don't at least take the case to court you are making a serious mistake. I also submit to you that if you change things now as is being proposed, there isn't a man in the room or a woman, has any real idea of how it affects their area except kind of halfway remotely. But if you are other than Omaha, and I love my city brethren in Omaha, help them get those sales taxes so they can tax each other, but when they get dipping in our bucket and trying to take everything, what little crumbs we have had and run with them, that I think it gets to the point of unfairness. So I urge you to reject. If you are going to be fair at all, reject Cal's amendment and reject the committee amendment and try to extend things for a year. And I'll, assuming I ever get a chance, offer that amendment here after these are disposed of one way or the other.