

March 23, 1982

LB 761

I support the Newell amendment. I think it is the responsible thing to do, not to put off our expenditures where they are going to cost us more money in a nonelection year. I think the state should face its responsibilities this year and not pile problems onto the state for future years because this is an election year. That is the only issue that is really before us on many of these proposals. It is a fix on the general revenue system to try to run it at inadequate rates and really not meet the very needed programs such as this one that will cost us more later to do. No one can run a business in that manner and come out in the long run, to put off in an election year expenditures that are reasonable and proper, and I think the majority of this body agrees that this amendment is reasonable and a reasonable expenditure to make this year. I think it is time the body looked for 30 votes to put this amendment on and carry it across. It is the responsible thing to do and I don't think the taxpayers of this state want us to play the shell games that are going off cutting out responsibilities of state government at the time when the federal government is pulling out funds, pulling out millions of dollars of funds out of the State of Nebraska and try to turn our responsibilities down to the locals and shift to real estate taxes many of the items of state government. That is another part of it. This is one that is an upfront expenditure that is solid, that is a good investment for the state. And I think the Legislature must at this time take the responsibilities to fund what are responsible programs. We have not had the cuts made in state agencies coming out of administrative costs, and there are some places there we could cut and legitimately cut state government, but not in the basic needs. In this basic program too much money right now is going into central administration and it really makes a sham the percentage that will be in central administration if we take away the amounts, don't even put back Dave Newell's amounts in here, unless we put...and I hope we can install some language that will reduce the administrative costs of this program and put a minimum reduction in services.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, probably this bothers me more than any vote I have made to have to say, don't support Senator Newell's amendment. 309 originally was my bill. I asked Senator Kelly to sponsor it with me, so I followed this through from the very start of it and we do need it. Everything that has been said is right.