

March 24, 1982

LB 761

the committee amendment, the other day which we did not even offer. So if your question is one of good faith, yes, I have good faith on my part as well as those that....

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR WARNER:contacted me.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I am not questioning your good faith, Senator Warner, but there are 47 other members of this body including...not including yourself and myself, and I have watched in the past that even though you and I might agree upon something that 25 other members might agree on something else, and so I think it is very important that we strike from LB 942 Sections 2 through 6, Section 14, and with that understanding I will withdraw this amendment, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: That is your opening and your closing. It is withdrawn then. The next amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the bill is offered by Senator Koch. (Read the Koch amendment as found on page 1401 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the body, this proposed amendment is in the area of handicapped education. I handed out to you just a moment ago the background on special education in the State of Nebraska, and the shift of cost. I think number 3 is the most important of those various items that I gave to you. I want to remind you that back in 1973 when this body decided that special education should become the sole responsibility of the public schools, in doing so they shift the cost from Beatrice and other places to the public schools. Now then, we know public schools rely very heavily on property tax for their source of income to the degree of somewhere around 72 percent. I realize the costs of special education have increased but so has everything else. This morning on my desk I had a deal about state colleges and the University system. In ten years the costs have increased 261 percent. I suggest to you that in ten years the costs for special education have not increased that much. The schools also live under a 7 percent lid and we did that by law. Now for us to say to them, you are going to suffer a \$3 million...well, it's \$3,418,000 that they are going to suffer. Now to some schools this may not be too important, but to many of the larger schools we have large programs and