

April 1, 1982

LB 761

have now and they would put an ox loose and he or she... well, I guess an ox is always a male, I guess, but whatever an ox is it is a four-footed creature, pretty large and heavy, it walked and as it walked it made the corn come out of whatever the corn is in and at any rate you would allow the cow to eat some of what it treaded out. Then there is another verse, Senator Howard Peterson, that says the workman is worthy of his hire. And I think what that would mean is his or her wages. We often talk about the work ethic. They usually put Protestant in front of it...the Protestant work ethic. Unless you are talking about slavery, you mean that there is a corollary to the working and that corollary is a fair and decent wage. Now I can't understand Senator Peterson's position because I think what we are talking about are conservative principles. You make people work. They want to work and you pay them what they are worthy of. Now if Senator Peterson told me that he doesn't think the state employees are worth what they are getting paid, that is what he ought to say. But he shouldn't bring up a depressed homebuilding industry because he is not talking about taking the money you would give to the employees and pumping it into the homebuilding industry. I don't know what relevance farm sales, sales of farm equipment have, because he is not saying, help that particular operation by taking money from the employees and giving it to them. I don't see how Senator Goll's car business is going to be helped by cutting the public employees' wages or denying them a raise. Those things are generally discussed although they have nothing to do with the issue. But I will tell you something that does have a great deal to do with it. The father of all the Scrooges is in the White House in Washington and his child sits in the Statehouse right here in Lincoln and everything Reagan says in Washington Thone echoes in Nebraska. Reagan says, lot of defense spending. That is what we hear, lot of defense spending. A lot of tax cuts, a lot of tax cuts. But then when the problems result, both go into the Alice in Wonderland world of saying, believe me, trust me, everything is going to get all right somehow next week, next month, just string along with me. Well, there is a reality that has to be faced. When people get very old they are conscious of the fact they don't have much future and they don't care about taking everybody in the world down with them. That is why you have nuclear brinkmanship being played at the national level. That is why at the state level you will have somebody say, if the employees don't like what is happening, they can quit, nobody is telling them to stay on. Well, that is ridiculous. We all know what the pressures are of working for a governmental agency or a private employer. We know what the problems are of

9918