

April 6, 1982

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in current staff, but as a practical matter, neither will there be any additional staff available next time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you, Senator Warner. I would like to support what I think is a altogether reasonable package. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to introduce 36 third to sixth graders from Ames School at Ames, Nebraska, with two teachers, Betty Murer and Paula Anderson. Will you stand and be recognized please? They are from Senator Lowell Johnson's District. Welcome to the Legislature. The next speaker is Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I guess as we consider the package proposed by Senator Warner, we have to call to mind why we have reached this point and I think the Legislature can shoulder that responsibility. I think we need to be reminded of that, however. With the amendment that was adopted in 942 offered by Senator Fenger, we were cut back about \$4.8 million because of the fact that the surcharge was repealed that Senator Warner had originally proposed. In addition, Senator Newell's amendment to LB 761 cut \$1.5 million and returned that to property tax, personal property tax reimbursement fund and those totals basically are the amount of money that we are talking about either cutting in this proposal or receiving through increased cash fund transfers. So it is quite clear that the step that is being taken by Senator Warner would not be necessary if we had stuck with the Warner package originally proposed to add the \$3.75 surcharge and to allow for \$1.5 million to convert to the state rather than being included in the personal property tax reimbursement formula. In both of those cases, I know that there was some concerns and I agreed with those concerns but at the time I opposed those cuts and felt that the result would be negative and I do feel the Warner proposal is negative but it is certainly better than what the alternative is which is to further cut state employees' salaries. I think it is also quite clear that we have yet to discuss the question about equity between where we make cuts and where we don't make cuts and we have been very generous in terms of personal property tax reimbursement, political subdivision reimbursement, and we have been very frugal in terms of state agencies support and state employees salary support and I have always felt that in the last special session and this session that we haven't been very equitable with the entire budget. A majority of the budget anymore goes to political subdivisions, individuals and others, \$389,000,000. We have been unable to touch that

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