

April 16, 1982

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fiscal analyst's office, when we give this increase to state employees remember part of it comes back to the state in the form of state income tax. So they aren't even going to get the full amount that we are talking about, 3 3/4 or 5 percent. Someone said to me, they said, well, you know, it isn't going to hurt us outstate to go along with this veto because all the state employees are in Lincoln and Omaha. You have got the Department of Agriculture, Games and Parks, Roads Department, the Highway Patrol, they are all over this state. And I will tell you this, there is a lot of young people that move to Omaha and Lincoln from the rural areas because they can't find jobs out there and they are working for the state. There is between 27 and 28,000 state employees. Now if you figure each one of them has a husband or a wife, mother or father, grandparents, sons and daughters of voting age, you can get up to maybe 50 to 60,000 people or more that are going to be thinking about these state employees being shortchanged and being told to bite the bullet. It is something I would keep in mind if I was running for office this year. But something else that I want to bring out, the Governor has overridden this salary increase effective October 1st, and he says we have to bite the bullet. The Governor's own increase in his food budget since he took office is almost 100 percent in four years. So if the Governor says he needs \$15,000 a year is what his budget is going to end up being this fiscal year for food alone and four years ago it was \$7,148, 1978, how can he possibly say that employees getting this measly 5 percent increase can get along on that when his food budget has gone up 100 percent in four years? That is just an average of 25 percent a year. Does he think that the employees haven't paid more for food, or are they just gouging the poor Governor? Maybe he is doing business with a special food company. Maybe he is not shopping the supermarkets, because employees are paying the same price for food but then again maybe he is getting a special price from somebody, I don't know. But I can't understand the arithmetic of saying, I need a 100 percent increase over four years to entertain and the employees only need 5 percent increase to feed their families. I wouldn't be caught dead not overriding this veto. It is inhumane and what is worse it is inconsistent for a Governor to do this, to say, bite the bullet and then increase his own budget like that, and to tell everybody else, you eat less and I will buy more and that is what it amounts to.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR HIGGINS: So when you go out into your districts to campaign, you tell them how you saved the state so many

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