

November 10, 1982

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SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes.

SENATOR KOCH: In this informational hearing which you had late yesterday afternoon, how many businessmen were there to speak to this issue? Were there some lobbyists there representing the Association of Industry and Commerce?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes.

SENATOR KOCH: Now in all fairness to the general public do you think it is fair when we come down here and we start applying band-aids one more time, which we have been doing for the last year and a half, to suddenly say to businessmen out there in the field, that guess what we're going to do to you? We're going to apply a new system that has never been properly heard in a public sector outside of the fact there were a few people there yesterday afternoon speaking. Senator Carsten, in your own judgment as a long time member and man of integrity, do you think this is fair for us to whip that on those people and try to doctor it up so April is the magic day instead of January, the twenty-fifth day of the month is magic instead of the last day of the month, is that being fair with the businessman which we all proclaim to want to support and protect in our political rhetoric?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Koch, let me answer that by saying that there were some businessmen in the audience at the hearing, not an overflow crowd of them. There were representatives of commerce and industry that did speak to the bill in opposition to the bill in its original form. Following the hearing we did make contacts, many contacts, across the state to business people explaining what the alternatives to the original bill were and while, as I said in my opening remarks, they did not wholeheartedly agree to it, they did for the most part, say that they could live with it. As far as fairness is concerned, I'm not sure that any changes, any additions, whether it be taxwise, exemptions or what it is, there is some inequity in most everything that we do. In all seriousness we tried to be as...listening as we could to the objections, and yet try to, as I said before, attempt to make some improvement in that which we already have.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Carsten, if you would yield to one more question.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes.

SENATOR KOCH: Now what will be the beneficial effect of this to the State of Nebraska? I'm talking about state government. Is this really going to solve a lot of problems for us or is it just another momentary fix where maybe it will bail us out of one serious plight or is it really going to solve a lot of things for us in the future and be there forever?

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