

April 27, 1989

LB 807

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I have some more comments, but I guess I'm out of time.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. May I introduce some guests, please. Under the south balcony we have 14 members of the Back to the Bible International, and they represent eight countries. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thanks to all of you for visiting us today. Also, in the north balcony, Senator Moore has guests, 44 fourth grade students from Lincoln Elementary in York, Nebraska and their teacher. Would you folks stand and be recognized. Thank you. Senator Weihing, please, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the body, a number of the questions that I had in mind have already been discussed. But there...I wish to have Senator Schmit continue on discussion of some of these. How would these lands be sold, Senator Schmit, so that we would not become involved with a depression in private land itself?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator Weihing, that is of course a very good question. It is one of the principal concerns, not only of this Legislature, but of the local communities and of the educators who would rely upon the revenue to support the schools. And that is, of course, up to this Legislature. We can devise and design the system of the sale of the school land which best suits the children of the State of Nebraska. The proposal that I believe the Revenue Committee settled upon was one which would allow for the sale of the school lands as the leases terminated. And I think that is a reasonable one. There may need to be some additional stipulations placed there, I'm sure we can do that. Senator Haberman mentioned the fact, and it's a very good factor, the fact that right now we have a drought, this might make a poor market. I'm sure that we might want to add in there, Senator Weihing, that the land should not be sold for less than the appraised value, and there might be other stipulations. We could set the requirements as tight or as loosely as we want, with one thought in mind, and that is to protect the equity and the value of that asset for the children of the State of Nebraska and to achieve the maximum amount of return for time immemorial for the children of Nebraska.