

May 23, 1973

to the point that's really bad. I wish this body would listen to this. Not that I care but I think you ought to be with the information. This Tax Commissioner under this administration I've just verified that under general terms they audit approximately three hundred a year including those who have a license to collect the sales tax. Now that includes everyone that has a license to collect sales tax and every Nebraska corporation. Now they have opposed year after year in every administration that I've ever had any contact with doing this. Now there has to be a reason for it. They never ask for the money and the reason for that because they don't want to do it. They don't have enough capable people now to do it in the first place. I've discussed with this time and time again and they don't want to do it. They say even if we had the money it would take years in order to implement this people with competent people. We'd have to teach them. Well the man that didn't have a lick of sense checking the sales tax is better than nobody at all. Anybody can audit that. Since the sales tax has been assessed, nobody has ever checked me and I am sure in this body you don't look at me as the most honest person in the 49 people, even though I have asked them to audit my sales tax. Now what kind of an organization do you want. This is your responsibility. You can have all the excuses you want to but this is our prime responsibility but to see that the administration, any administration, has a sufficient amount of money in order to do the area of the collecting of the tax that the people legally owe. Now I am not talking about those people who evade taxes. I am only talking about the people who maybe avoid taxes as they have a right to do. They may be right or wrong. Now I would like to ask Senator Marvel a question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Look at the bridge. Apparently where I am going to go pretty soon to jump off of it. But the record will show, never have they asked for enough money to do what they knew they had the prime responsibility for and unless they did it, no one else would do it. At what point is this body going to assume some responsibility for the collection of taxes we've already levied. Not new taxes, taxes that are now not probably paid and their rule of thumb is, this state Tax Department, every dollar they do spend now they get four back ordinarily speaking and general application of ability to make an audit. Now I have no particular affinity for these amendments or this bill. I can stand up here this morning against a blank wall, and I understand that in part, and I have no objection to it but if you are going to close your mind because of other things beside the amendments I am offering, of course, that's your irresponsibility. You are not hurting me. You are only hurting in part those people that sent you down here to be knowledgeable and to be sure that insofar as anybody can taxes are equally assessed and applied.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall the Carpenter amendment to 526 on Select File be adopted. Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: A record vote.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter is asking for a record vote.

(End of Belt #12)