

SENATOR SYAS: I was just going to ask, what you going to do about the "A" bill now?

SPEAKER: We have already discussed that. That is up to Senator Snyder. Alright, Senator Dickinson, the motion is to advance.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Is this still subject to discussion Mr. President? I have a question of Senator Snyder. The question has been raised, and I think it did a couple of minutes ago, Senator Syas, he didn't pursue the matter, which surprises me. Providing bus service outside the city limits of Omaha. Now the bus system is being subsidized by a property tax from those residences within a city, is that correct?

SENATOR SNYDER: Yes.

SENATOR DICKINSON: I understand that the transit company has or a...a...are planning bus routes to Boys Town, and there has been some talk about planning bus routes to Bellvue, is this right or wrong?

SENATOR SNYDER: On a contract basis.

(end belt #8)

(Start belt #9)

SENATOR DICKINSON: Not by an individual fare basis?

SENATOR SNYDER: The individual fare just simple does not make up the cost of operation.

SENATOR DICKINSON: In other words if they extend this service beyond the city limits, the citizens of Omaha would not be subsidizing it through there mil levy.

SENATOR SNYDER: It is another one of the christian attitudes on behalf of the citizens of Omaha, yes.

SENATOR DICKINSON: They would be subsidizing it then?

SENATOR SNYDER: Well....you aren't heavy, you are our friends. No, it is subsidized, if you want to use that term.

SENATOR DICKINSON: I didn't get your last answer Senator Snyder.

SENATOR SNYDER: I'm not sure that I did. No, I don't call it subsidization, we don't have a regional transportation authority, we don't have a regional tax base. Of course the major brunt of the operation costs are paid for by the citizens of Omaha. Nowhere have we found where the fare box even begins to pay for the operation of mass transit. A 50% is the national average and of course in this case the contract fare is not paying the cost of operation. But it is ridiculous when you are talking about the area that we have, the metropolitan area to define yourself to the city limits. You just can't do that in this day and age.