

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President and members, I make a motion we advance the bill.

SENATOR MARVEL: Motion is made and seconded that LB 902 be advanced to E & R for review. Is there any discussion? Senator Chambers, your light is on. Do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I renew the objections that I have to this bill. I say that there is no assurance that this piecemeal procedure which is being adopted under this bill will not be utilized by Omaha as soon as the time limit in this bill has expired. Once they have been allowed to rely on this extra half percent, they will come back to the Legislature and say they cannot live without it. Now you have taught them that if they negotiate in bad faith with any union in the city and a Court of Industrial Relations goes against the city, the city will then say the Court of Industrial Relations created the fiscal problem of Omaha. Based on that, not only do they want to maintain the extra half percent but they would like an additional half percent, thereby, making Omahans pay 2% more than the state assessed sales tax. I think that it ought to be brought out again that I told Omaha Senators, and whereas they say they support the bill, not one of them wanted to co-sponsor the bill with Senator Merz. They are not at their ten bill limit. Oh, Senator Labeledz said she would, that is right. She said she would but to my knowledge no others have changed their position. So Senator Merz is in a position of that individual who during the Watergate disclosures was said that he was left swinging and turning in the wind slowly, hanging fire. So with all of the strong discussions in favor of this bill by certain Omaha Senators, not one will add his name. I say "his", Senator Labeledz. Not one of those Senators will add his name to this bill. I was told also that the Omaha people who signed the petition to do away with LB 33, the state aid to schools bill, gave as one of their main rationale that they did not want to pay additional sales tax, especially on food. It was stated on this floor that this bill will put that tax on them anyway and it was further stated in the corridor one day that it will teach them a lesson, that however you get the tax, you are going to have to pay it. But those from outstate who would like to put this tax on Omaha citizens as a punishment for not going along with LB 33, to punish them for signing the petition for putting it on the ballot, you should understand that there is going to be a redistricting of the Legislature after the next census and you are going to need urban Senators votes to get anything that you try to get through this Legislature. Omahans are going to be under an additional 1½% sales tax above what the state has imposed. The argument then will be, how can additional money be taken from the taxpayers of Omaha to support a state aid bill. They are already burdened down to the crunching point with an additional 1½% on the tax. So the box that you may think you are erecting to punish Omaha citizens for signing that petition may backfire on the outstate Senators later on.

SENATOR MARVEL: You have got thirty seconds, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: A bill of this type should never be enacted by the Legislature, because not only does it allow a city to