

March 19, 1979

LB 509

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Senator Newell is absent today, Chairman of Miscellaneous Subjects Committee. On his behalf, I would move advancement of the committee amendment as amended at this time.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the motion is the committee amendment as amended. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. We are voting on the committee amendment as amended. We are voting on the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee amendment as amended to LB 509. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The committee amendments as amended are adopted. Now Senator Hoagland, do you want to explain the bill?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Let me explain, Mr. Speaker, just briefly what this bill is about. This bill is intended to preserve in cities of the metropolitan class ornamental lighting systems which are at least forty years old. Now this bill was the result of a stand-off, a two year stand-off, between the neighbors in my legislative district and Senator Pirsch's legislative district and Senator Goodrich's legislative district and the Omaha Public Power District and the City of Omaha. For over two years now, the neighbors have been going to those two governmental subdivisions trying to get relief to this serious problem. Now these ornamental globe lights have underground wiring. They are cast iron and they were originally manufactured in the 1920's and they enhance considerably the value of the neighborhoods in those particular districts and the neighbors have been very upset in recent years when OPPD and the city have come in and without their permission remove those lights. Now attached as Exhibit C to the materials that I have handed out is an exchange between Senator Fitzgerald and David Lanphier, an attorney in Omaha, which illustrates the problem that many of the landowners in the City of Omaha have been having. Now let me emphasize two things, first of all, these lights were bought and paid for by the property owners through property tax assessments back in the late 1920's. About five to ten years ago in spite of the fact that those lights had been paid for by the neighbors, the city and the Omaha Public Power District began randomly removing them. Early on in the history of this, why a lot of cannibalizing took place. The lights were taken from poor neighborhoods and moved into wealthy neighborhoods,