

April 6, 1988

LB 1234

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard, would you respond?

SENATOR HEFNER: So I can understand this and we want to make it perfectly clear to the body what we're doing is taking one part of LB 294 and putting it into LB 1234, and that part is increasing the deductions, the standard deductions to those individual taxpayers that itemize. Is that correct?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard, before you start, (gavel), I didn't mean to interrupt you, Senator Hefner, but I wanted to get it a little quieter so we could hear you.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay. Did you hear what we were saying, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT: Yes, I did, but I wanted to hold it down.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay. I support this deal and one more question. Then we would leave the cigarette tax increase out?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: The cigarette tax increase will be left on the cutting room floor.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, okay. I support this and the reason I do is because I don't think we should raise the cigarette tax at this time. We have plenty of money now to fund this and so I think that we should leave the increase of the cigarette tax at some other time, maybe next year, maybe two years from now or maybe never. Yes, the cigarette tax increase is in 294 and if that comes up later, well, it will still be in there, so I would encourage you to support this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, please, then Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Mr. President, colleagues, I rise likewise to support this particular amendment. I think the original intention of 1238 when it was originally brought in by the Governor was to provide a tax reduction for lower and middle class Nebraskans and I think that this particular amendment can