

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 16, 1999 LB 194

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Schimek, I certainly can understand your frustration and why you felt a need to ask for this...this language to be inserted into the committee amendments, but I need to tell you what my motivation is, and there are several relevant to my amendment, and talk about what my amendment is first. Basically, what it does is, is return the language to the language that we're present using...presently using which allows for the single notification and allows for publication of delinquent taxes. In the years that I was on the Gage County Board of Supervisors and Chairman of that board, we found that this vehicle above all, the publication of the legal descriptions of the delinquent tax parcels, was probably the number one deterrent that we had to people not paying their taxes on time. We could count the minute that we published our notices that the treasurer's office would have to add extra help because people were flocking into the office to pay their taxes. It was a tremendous deterrent and served exactly for the purpose that it was designed. It certainly...it...we talk about embarrassment but, you know, when you have an obligation to pay taxes in your counties in the state of Nebraska, you also undertake what goes along with that, and that's the fact that if you don't pay your taxes you're going to be somewhat punished. You're going to have to pay interest and, in this situation, your names are going to be...your title of your property is going to be published, the legal description, so that, in effect, you can't just ignore it. What we found that with one notice, two notices, people just take them and throw them in "File 13" and really don't take them seriously. So I feel that it's absolutely necessary and the reason for my amendment is to put the publication or keep the publication notification the same as it is now. Now, obviously, there are others who are interested in this. The Nebraska Press Association, for very obvious reasons, have found this...this issue has been argued many times before and for all the logical reasons the language has been maintained. But something that I don't think that we've...we've thought about, and I had several calls over the weekend, was relative to financial institutions. Many financial institutions make mortgages on property without tying it, as part of their payment, the real estate taxes. And, as part of the agreement that they have with the people that they lend the money to, with the mortgage securing the property,