

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

March 26, 2001 LB 657

the city furnishes fire protection, they furnish police, they build streets, they furnish clean water to drink, and they furnish a means to dispose of dirty water and sewer. Senator Jensen mentioned that he moved 50 years ago into some of the areas affected by Senator Bourne's amendment and there was a problem there and 50 years later, same problem. What a friend we have in the officials in the city of Omaha. And I was living there when Senator Jensen moved in. The problem is that there is no sense of priority. Last year, city of Omaha came down and said, let us, a political subdivision, tap into your income stream, LB 380, and we have this absolutely magnificent picture to show you of a city convention center. The picture has faded just a bit since then and will probably fade more. The hotel that was going to be eagerly built by people who would claw each other half to death for the opportunity to build it hasn't materialized and probably won't until the city of Omaha will help them. And, of course, we know where that help will come from. Get your checkbooks ready. Oh, that's the state checkbook that they will have for that. The city of Omaha, and this is not Hal Daub or whoever preceded him, this goes back, evidently, at least 50 years; why don't they have a sense of priority of furnishing the services that they should to their citizens, and get that done before they start embellishing it. One of the problems with politicians is that they want to leave a monument behind them, the Chambers Civic Center. (Laughter) God, doesn't that have a ring to it! I'm going to vote for the Bourne amendment because it does hold the city of Omaha to the task of doing what it should have done repeatedly years ago. And then I'm going to vote against this bill because all these good things, which come to about 7 percent of the total project, is something that the city of Omaha and the city of Lincoln can do themselves. This thing is over...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR TYSON: ...\$200 million; they want 50 and 22, 37.5 from us. Their cost estimates, and I have a picture here of what the city of Omaha is going to do and it's a projected future, future, projected, possible. At least Antelope Valley has prettier pictures than the city of Omaha has furnished us. Think about what we are supposed to be doing down here and then support the