

April 5, 1979

LB 365

with the understanding that Omaha has said we need it, the Omaha mayor, the councilmen, the people. All they are asking you is the authority to handle this matter in the manner they see best and the amendment to the amendment that I am offering talks about an extension of two years beyond what we were originally talking. That is what we are talking about. Senator Warner suggested, well, why have any dates since they are never going to get rid of the tax. There have been some taxes terminated. There have, doggone few unfortunately, but at least put a termination date for them to shoot at. I urge acceptance of the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the DeCamp amendment to the committee amendments to LB 365. All those in favor of that amendment to the committee amendments vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted? I am going to call the vote. Clerk, record the vote.

CLERK: 12 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator DeCamp's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The amendment to the committee amendments fails. Motion lost. Okay, Senator Simon, you have an amendment. Do you want the Clerk to read the amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Simon moves to amend the committee amendments to provide that all city sales tax on food be eliminated.

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, members of the body, I am not very wild about this bill at best. I think I probably would vote against it without the amendment. I think one of the major concerns that I have about the bill, and Senator Chambers has expressed them, is that you are going to increase the sales tax on food which is a necessity of life, and as a resident of Omaha even though I technically reside outside the city limits, I really deeply resent the city picking up revenue by taxing a necessity of life and I can't believe the number of people I hear talking to me, you know, why can't you eliminate the sales tax on food, why can't you eliminate the sales tax on food, and this body may have an opportunity to do that. It certainly will have the opportunity next week. But I guess in the very least if I am going to support LB 365 and I could possibly live with the bill, I certainly would not under any circumstance support the bill when you are going to increase the tax on food another half percent. Now I think that by eliminating the sales tax on food in the City of Omaha, and that would not be hard to do,