

April 5, 1979

LB 365

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The vote is on the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 3 nays on the adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the committee amendments are adopted. Okay, Senator Keyes, do you wish to speak to the bill? I recognize you to speak to the bill.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want every Senator on the floor of this Legislature and all those that are in hearing distance that I am going to vote to extend the sales tax of Omaha, not no where near like Senator John DeCamp wants it, not any where near like Senator Cal Carsten just put on, I wanted to support the bill just exactly like the people of Omaha came down and told me that they wanted a year ago. You know when a man comes up and hollers "wolf" and you go out to shoot the wolf and you find no wolf and you kind of laugh, but about the second time they come out and do that or the third time, you become perturbed. Now I want to tell you something. Property tax in Omaha, and this is the very latest because I just got it, got it from Stuve, property tax in Omaha, one mill will generate \$1,250,000. Sales tax generates about \$9 million. The first six months, the first six months that Omaha enjoyed the additional half a penny sales tax, what did they do? They cut property taxes two and a half million dollars. What did they do with the rest of the money? I don't know but two and a half million out of the four and half million they collected left them two million dollars and I don't know whether they filled in holes in their streets or not or whether that took care of the police department and the firemen's pay increase. That is what it was for but what did they do with it? They retired their debt. They retired their bond issue. They took their mill levy down. I didn't get anything out of the sales tax that I paid when I went to Omaha to do my shopping, and we do 80% of it there. I will back up just a little bit. What did you shut me off for? Shut me down. Okay, I will quiet down just a little bit, but let me tell you something. I didn't get any cut in my property taxes and 80% of the money that the Keyes household spends on groceries and on cars and on everything else that we buy is spent in Douglas County. It doesn't help me one penny's worth to cut the property