

April 19, 1979

LB 181

SENATOR GEORGE: Thank you Mr. Clerk. I believe that it is self-explanatory. The City of Omaha could, if they received any other funds or grants or gifts add that to the financing method for the construction of those parking facilities. I ask for the adoption of that amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Keyes. Your light is on.

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, I just have one question I guess of Senator Brennan, are you the one that introduced this bill, Senator Brennan?

SENATOR BRENNAN: I did.

SENATOR KEYES: Now this is going to set up a parking lot that is going to be owned by the city as I understand.

SENATOR BRENNAN: Correct.

SENATOR KEYES: Now we have Omaha here this year, crying their eyes out to get an increase in the sales tax and right away I see that they are going to take some more property off the tax rolls, are going to increase the responsibility of the City of Omaha, and I don't suppose the parking fees that are on there will be subject to a sales tax, so what we are doing is probably removing a half a million dollars from the property tax. Letting Omaha and the people who come in from the surrounding area pay for the building of it, but letting Omaha come along and not contribute anything to the operation of that city. I can't understand how the City of Omaha can come down here one day and tell us that they are broke and come down the next day and remove another half million dollars of their property, their source of revenue from the tax rolls and justify themselves. Maybe you can do that for me Senator Brennan.

SENATOR BRENNAN: This is to be financed by revenue bonds as I understand it. Right now downtown Omaha is quite a little mess if you have been down there. There is a feeling of some people that intend to build down there that the only possibility that they have of building is if they have a parking garage in that area. Right now, we are just not getting any taxation or any revenue from downtown. It is getting pretty thin. I think that at times, the day after a big storm we could get some people in there to declare it a disaster area. I think that this is very necessary. Lincoln did it and I don't see any reason why Omaha couldn't do it.

SENATOR KEYES: I understand the revenue bonds will be paid