

of those hard decisions. Perhaps we did not make enough. Perhaps we did not even make enough as it was. Because LB 365 is presented for us, with all of the co-sponsors to help it pass. Some of you had made commitments...

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute left.

SENATOR MARSH: Some of you knew ahead of time that you would support this because of what they might be able to do for you or your district. Well no one has made any request nor promises to me. Probably my speaking on the floor one year ago said loudly enough that I was not likely to change my mind. I am not likely to change my mind on this particular issue. I see even less reason to support it this year than was presented last.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I am new to the Legislature this year. I was not here when promises were made and I realize that there is much anger at promises not kept and the city of Omaha returning to extend the sales tax. However, I am a citizen of Omaha and I represent the citizens of Omaha and in a recent questionnaire which I sent out, I had response from the people in my district, District 10, who were asked, "Should the extra half percent of Omaha's city sales tax be extended for four more years." It was not a great majority. It was 55% answered yes. But, a great majority, 89% of the citizens of Omaha did respond "yes" that the city sales tax rate should not be controlled by the Legislature but by the city officials and subject to voter approval by the citizens. I think that we should let the citizens of Omaha handle the administration if it has not been efficient, if it has not been using their money properly but please do not penalize the citizens of Omaha for the administration mistakes or unfilled promises. I support LB 365.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support the advancement of 365. As I said before I have not always been a supporter of the half cent city sales tax, but the realities of the situation are that this year even more than last year the city of Omaha needs the additional revenue. That is an absolute fact. Last year the city was down about two million. Without the passage of 365 the city will be in trouble to the tune of five million dollars. That is primarily due, as I would remind you to the advent of the LB 1 that was passed in