

March 4, 1981

LB 390

This is a game two can play. We seem to be the bad guys because we are fighting for our people and we are told we must accept a population factor so the fat cats can get even bigger and a bigger chunk of the pie. There is no county that loses who would have more by putting any population in the factor. They only lose more. It just isn't fair. We keep hearing that urban people pay more of the sales tax than we do. I do not believe this is a fact. It just cannot be possible as we pay some \$18 to \$20 million in farm machinery sales tax alone each year by your own figures and admission, and we also shop in your areas while some of you can count the times you have been west of Lincoln. I am sorry you feel this way, because I feel we should work together and not sell each other down the river. It is up to you. We can survive one way or the other. We always have. I might also say that there were the votes in the committee, I think, to kill LB 390 but we were gentlemen and didn't twist the knife when we had the chance. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this motion, and I certainly hate to go against my good friend, Senator Carsten, who is Chairman of the Revenue Committee. I happen to be Vice Chairman of this committee, but before I go any further I would just like to say to you, let's analyze our committee system here in the Legislature. I think this is very important. Here in Nebraska we have a Unicameral. We are the only one in the United States that have this form of state government, and I think it is a good government. It is a good form of government. And I feel that the committee system is very important to make the Unicameral work. Our committees work long and hard. You saw last night the Education Committee was here until about midnight. These committee members are dedicated in trying to find a solution that will make Nebraska a better state to live in. At these committee hearings we hear both the pros and cons, and some of them last many hours. I feel that our citizens in Nebraska feel that they need to get their input and this is what happened when we heard the bills, LB 284, LB 390, LB 524, before the Revenue Committee. Citizens came near and far to testify to tell their story of what they wanted this committee and this Legislature to do. I think the committee system in our Unicameral is a very strong point and I do not feel that we want to deteriorate from this. By raising this bill, LB 390, to the floor I feel would be bypassing the Revenue Committee,