

March 4, 1981

LB 390

SENATOR MARESH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One thing that hasn't been brought out is the committee system. Are we going to sit here as the Revenue Committee today and decide which bill stays in committee and which comes out? I think this is an important issue. Why do we have a committee system? These people will consider this bill for weeks and weeks, all the bills, I should say, and now why should we come out with a bill that they didn't approve. Five to three the vote was, so I think that we should not consider LB 390 but 284. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Where is Senator Nichol? Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield my time to Senator Newell, if I might.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell? Okay.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, I didn't get a chance to finish my statements before, and I would like to just talk for a minute since Senator DeCamp has raised the issue of one of the primary reasons why urban areas, and we are not talking about Omaha and Lincoln, we are talking about Norfolk and Fremont and Grand Island and Hastings, and other cities in this state, you know, they are not just Omaha and Lincoln. It is easy and it is nice to try to isolate those communities and it has been a tactic that has been often used on this floor. But there are other cities, metropolitan areas in this state. I would like to say... just make this one key point, Senator DeCamp, as we all can remember has tried repeatedly throughout the years to raise ag land to actual value to the sales assessment ratio. Senator DeCamp has offered amendments on this floor. Every bill he has offered, has it stuck somewhere hidden in the dark recesses of the bill, the argument that ag land, agricultural land, should be raised to that sales assessment ratio. Now, everybody here knows exactly what that will do. That will make some tremendous changes within rural counties between who pays the taxes. Now my difficulty is simply this, that if you go straight valuation you allow Senator DeCamp or some citizen of Hastings or Norfolk or Grand Island or Scottsbluff, you allow some individual a real incentive to take the court case to the Supreme Court that argues for ag land to be at the sales assessment ratio, to be ag land to be valued at the same price, the same price as urban residences, and when that happens