

called Flex-0-Lite, high-powered lobbyists, and I have noticed it going on for about two years or so on this particular issue. So whenever I see this developing, I decide that is a bill that I want to take a particular interest in and try to learn more about and just almost anything so I can really understand what is behind it all and what is happening and so I did and I have offered some amendments. But first of all I would like to try to get in real clear perspective what the issue is, and if you will bear with me for a little while, I will play you a tape. It is about one minute, real easy to listen to, and it will kind of get things in perspective as to what the battle is, I hope. (Played tape.)\*

"It has been six years since Nebraska last changed their license plate design and when you pick up plates for a new vehicle today you are still getting the Bicentennial version. Currently, the license plates are made of a polar reflecting material designed by the 3M Company but an effort is underway in the Legislature to change state specifications for plates and allow bids to be taken on a different type of plate to be used next year. Sidney Senator Robert Clark says many states are going to what is called a beads-on-plate which does not have a reflective background. The (inaudible) bad thing about these beads-on-plates is that they can't be seen very well in the dark but Clark says there is a very good point. It would be about two million dollars less using this plate over the next six years and he says money should be the biggest concern." (Senator Clark on tape.)

"Colorado, Missouri, Arizona, this is where this plate is from, Iowa, Michigan, they all use this plate, this type of plate. I have talked to all of them. They are very, very happy with the system and they are very happy they are saving money on them. They are very happy that they are saving money."

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair will make this observation and that is that we have tried very carefully to keep any mechanical device out of the Legislature and I assume that this request will also be honored from now on. Thank you.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Well, Mr. President, the point there, as I understand it, the highlighted point are two things. It is a competition between reflectorization and beads-on-paint and the argument as I understand it very clearly, both in the committee and here, the primary argument is there is a two million dollar savings. Now, as I tried to follow this issue through I have seen four kind of major points raised. Number one, this 3M which provides the reflectorization method really have a monopoly, are they the big bad guy in the block? Two, is the processor, Flex-0-Lite, of the beads on paint process, are they really the innocent little guy with

\*(Interviewer on tape identified as Douglas Parrott with KETV)