

shows that both types of plates are good systems. LB 290 simply states that both types of reflectorized plates should have specifications drawn and bids taken so that the lowest bid can be obtained. LB 290 was advanced to the floor of the Legislature after a hearing before the Public Works Committee with only one dissenting vote. The real issue here in 290 is whether the Legislature wants open, competitive bidding for 1982 license plate issue, and perhaps a saving of up to \$2 million of taxpayers money. The Department of Motor Vehicles is in the process of developing specifications for the 1982 issue. Without 290, Pete Peterson's hands are tied. Bids must be taken as soon as possible in order that the state can meet its production schedule for the 1982 issue. The Public Works Committee requested that the emergency clause be added so the specifications can be drawn as soon as possible and the bids awarded to the most competitive bidder. I feel strongly about 290. I feel so strongly that I have selected this bill as my priority bill. The taxpayers and citizens of Nebraska are asking the Legislature to be fiscally responsible. LB 290 can save the state up to \$2 million without hurting anyone. I urge your support of LB 290 with the committee amendments. Before I sit down, I want to address a concern that Senator Schmit and Senator DeCamp and others have had about the information I distributed about reflective sheeting systems currently being used in the State of Nebraska. I have said there is only one supplier of the current sheeting system and there is not competition. It is my understanding 3M representatives have stated that there is seven manufacturers that can produce the system. Reports we received during the LR study from the State of Tennessee, Department of Finance Administration on their research of 1975 was that there is not one company that can supply reflective sheeting for license plates besides 3M. I have a copy of the report here. I also checked with the State of Nebraska Purchasing Department to get a list of suppliers on graphic sheeting system used in the State of Nebraska specifications for '76. There was only one company according to that information that had graphic sheeting and that was 3M. When I heard the rumor that there were seven manufacturers that could bid on the system, I began contacting each of these companies by phone to see if they could provide sheeting material that meets the Nebraska specifications. I found out there were ten companies, not seven, that supply reflective sheeting materials. Some supply sheeting material for signs, others for validation stickers, and some supply reflective components for license plates but only one company, 3M, can supply the material for the Nebraska specifications for graphic sheeting. Two Japanese corporations, Kewei Lit and Mitsubishi, provide sheeting material in other countries but have not been able