

March 12, 1981

LB 290

to compete in markets like Nebraska where the specifications call for graphic sheeting. I was appalled to learn that because of specifications that favor 3M we may not have competition in validation stickers, highway signs and numerous other areas where the state purchases supplies. I am passing out a list of companies we contacted along with their comments. These are the only companies we know of that produce reflective materials for license plates. We asked for names of other companies and we contacted them but could not come up with any other suppliers. If there are other companies, I would like to know who they are so that I can contact them personally. I have no reason to believe that the new specifications drawn for 1982 issue will not include graphic designs so that Nebraska will again be at the mercy of one supplier, 3M. The first thing I would like to see is that an American corporation have the bid but we need to have competition. We cannot have a situation where we have a monopoly. LB 290 will give the state the opportunity for competitive bidding and the lowest possible price. Now I would like to pass out around to everyone two license plates. These are both beads on glass and you will notice how much different these are than what 3M was around showing you, showing how glass beads come off the paint. At one time Missouri had a plate down there that they had a lot of trouble with the paint on and the glass beads were big and they came off very bad. Missouri tried to do it themselves without any professional help.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR CLARK: And that is the ones that tried to do it. What these are are the new system of beads-on-paint system, and if you can tell me there is anything wrong with it, I would like to know. I would urge your support for the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp, you are recognized. You can talk to your amendment, yes.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, the issue is two different systems, two different types of systems. One is the beads-on-paint and the other is full reflectorization and I think it is that simple. Which one do you choose? Full reflectorization had the support of law enforcement, of all types that testified at the hearing, and they criticized the beads-on-paint. I initially started out wanting not only to go with beads-on-paint but to go further, and that is what made me pursue things here. I contacted the Nebraska Department of Roads. I thought if we could save money on the license plates, think how much more money we could save on our road signs. Think how much more economical it would be long term