

March 23, 1981

LB 40

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I am going to rise and support not only the bill but the amendment itself. There has been some reference of late to an amendment that I have waiting to be considered but I don't want to do it on General File. I don't even want to do it at all unless it becomes necessary. My amendment, if it becomes necessary, would literally extend the tax for one year on the condition that a favorable vote was passed in the Omaha area and then if that vote passed it would become a permanent tax, a permanent authority for the tax, rather. Now, I am not offering that now because it is premature. I am saying if we get this bill moved to Select File we can then count the days that it takes to pass the bill from that point on to get it for the Governor's signature and then count the days that it takes to pass an ordinance putting this on the ballot in the Omaha area, and if there are sufficient days left, then before the ballots are printed, that deadline, in other words, then we will be in a position to do nothing but send the bill right straight on through just as it come out of committee. That is fine. We are not afraid of a vote of the people in the City of Omaha. As far as what Senator Schmit said, Senator Schmit and I have had many discussions on a comprehensive reorganization of the taxing structure of the State of Nebraska which is the bill, 524, which he alluded to in his remarks he just delivered. If and when we get something like that accomplished, which I have pledged to Senator Schmit that I would cooperate with him and I have had many cooperative type of conversations with Senator Schmit, and I stand full well pledged to support that kind of a concept because I think it is needed in the State of Nebraska. But in the meantime, we cannot let the largest city of the State of Nebraska go into financial chaos because of a lack of authority to extend this particular tax until such time as we can get the entire tax structure reorganized in the State of Nebraska. I urge you to adopt this amendment and move this bill forward and then, at Select File, we will be in a position to count the days needed here, count the days needed in Omaha, and determine whether or not there is sufficient number of days left to accomplish the vote of the people in May of this year as opposed to delaying the vote because I do not know for sure nor does anybody else how many days it is going to take to get this bill from this point to the point where it has the Governor's signature. I wholeheartedly urge you to adopt the amendment as the committee has recommended it and then let's advance this bill, expedite it. We can take a look at it on Select