

see who offered it this time. It was Senator Merz, the adjunct to Omaha last time. Senator DeCamp. Senator DeCamp, the new Terry Carpenter of the Legislature. I read in the paper this morning where he told us he is the most powerful Senator down here and, Senator DeCamp, this bill will prove it. He is doing for Omaha what the Omaha Senators cannot do for themselves. He is going to get this bill through the Legislature. Omaha will get the sales tax exemption...I mean, extension and, Senator Schmit, we will know that you will have to try harder because you are no better than number two and you may not even be that, but at least you are not number one. Now what am I trying to say here this afternoon to the members of the Legislature. I am telling you that I am opposed to this bill. I have always been opposed to the increase of the sales tax in Omaha. I have been opposed to cities having the power to offer a sales tax. There is no need in constantly talking about the erosion of the tax base, then doing everything for political reasons that accomplishes the very thing that people are saying should not happen. The bill is not good. It is a travesty but I am glad that Senator DeCamp has on his spurs. "Booted and spurred with a heavy stride" like Paul Revere and he is going to ride this Legislature as Revere rode his horse through the colonies, not saying, "The British are coming", "DeCamp and the sales tax are coming". Mayor Veys ought to be saying, "Thank you, John DeCamp". I almost said something else. That is what he should be saying in Omaha right now. That is what the business people and all the rest of them who want this bill should be saying right now. DeCamp is going to do it to the people of Omaha. I am thinking again about the times that I go through the grocery lines and I watch people who don't have much money having to pay an additional amount as a tax on food. That doesn't mean anything to the legislators here. I listened to Senator Marsh on another issue saying, "Give this little bit to the older people because this money being taken from them shouldn't have been taken in the first place", and that is exactly how I feel about the tax on food.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But my position on that does not prevail. It is difficult to adopt a principle which is pure and which, as they say in law class, is surrounded by a bright, clear line so that you know precisely what you are dealing with and then follow that principle down the line. There are other considerations that come to play, that come to bear on the issue, and, personally, I think all of you who speak