

March 23, 1981

LB 40

that, look, we recognize finally that the state is willing to say to Omaha, okay, right or wrong, good or bad, wise or unwise, you have a need for this one-half cent sales tax. Your situation is unique. You are the metropolitan area of this state. We yield and we make it a permanent thing so that it isn't an annual event, and if at such time the entire tax system of the state is redone, then we will look at it as we will a little later on 284 and I guess that is the issue. It is not that complicated, is it? We are talking about the Omaha sales tax. We are talking about extending it. Now we are talking about a vote in May and I, quite frankly, to be real honest with you, I don't think the bill can get 33 votes to pass quick enough to make that function but I am just alerting you to that now. That is the issue though, isn't it? And you are all familiar with it. The issue isn't Johnnie DeCamp. Heck, no, that is the last of the issues but my good, good, good and very, very clever friend, Senator Chambers, made Johnnie DeCamp the issue. Why was he clever? Because he knows the lay of the land on this particular piece of legislation. He knows, for example, that both Lincoln newspapers are strongly opposed, as almost are every single Lincoln Senator. He knows Omaha is desperate and he knows it is a close enough vote so that if he can make the issue Johnnie DeCamp instead of the Omaha sales tax, well, who knows. You might even peel off two or three or four or five votes particularly if you build him up big enough so that somebody would love to put a pin into his ballon. The issue isn't Johnnie DeCamp on this particular bill. The issue isn't Johnnie DeCamp at all. And, Senator Chambers, with respect to our good friend and former colleague, Senator Carpenter, I would simply say that Senator Carpenter's techniques and my techniques are one hundred percent totally different and I think diametrically opposed in most cases, completely different approaches to legislation, completely different attitudes, completely different everything. He used to like to throw two hundred and fifty darts and be happy if he could get ten or fifteen of them stuck in the wall and play with them all session. I guess I prefer to throw ten or fifteen pretty well thrown darts and work at them pretty carefully and hope that that is what is done. Our attitudes were completely different, and on the Omaha sales tax, I have consistently stated year in and year out it is a statewide issue. It has been because we all do participate and because Omaha as our metropolitan area is an important integral part of the state, just like the big hand of the clock is a very important part of the entire clock in telling the time, and Omaha is, with its population base and its relationship to our agricultural base, a critically important part. I believe on the basis of the evidence that has been presented over the years and

2077