

on the basis of the votes of the people of Omaha that this is a reasonable way at least for now to approach this issue, and, indeed, it is related and I have never said it wasn't to the other issues. It is related to 284. Why? Because how much money is distributed there determines how much the needs are in other areas and in Omaha. And it is related because it is a part of the state tax base. Nobody has ever questioned that on the floor. But check yourselves across the length and breadth of the United States. How many other major metropolitan areas have a separate sales tax? That has become the traditional way in metropolitan area after metropolitan area of financing city government because city government is very unique, different from our agricultural base. You do not have the requisite property tax base there and we recognize that with this admission or granting of the extension of the sales tax. By the same token, Senator Chambers, hard as it is to say, it is necessary that everybody participating in the use of Omaha, be they the poorest person or the wealthiest, participate to some degree in paying some of the taxes and this is, indeed, a way in which everyone participates in paying the expenses of financing the City of Omaha.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We have two, four, six, we have seven speakers.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I will be very brief. I will try. For one thing I did want to mention the fact that Senator Chambers mentioned that Johnnie DeCamp was the sponsor of the bill but later on Senator Koch and our Omaha Senator, Glenn Goodrich, also has their name on the bill. I would like to urge the members of the Legislature to support LB 40 and I would like to go over just a few things that is facing the City of Omaha. For one thing the operating budget for Omaha is approximately \$110 million and the half percent sales tax produces about \$11 million or ten percent of the funds needed. In May, 1980 during the election, the citizens approved another year extension of the half percent sales tax by a 68.67 percent. In my District it was 70 percent and I am in contact with a lot of groups in South Omaha. We have discussed this at length and they tell me that they do want the half percent sales tax and they do want it permanently. This vote demonstrated, the 67.6 percent that the Omaha citizens prefer funding city operations through the sales tax rather than increasing the fees or creating new fees or raising the real