

March 24, 1981

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, that....thank you. Let me see who else is here who is on this. Was anybody whose name appears as a cointroducer for this bill given the assurance that if this bill were introduced and passed, Falstaff will stay in this state? And if not, what is the haste? Why don't you wait until the sales people come back and tell you what they found out? The point is this. A waste disposal plant was built in Omaha supposedly to keep the packing houses there. They left anyway. When an industry determines that it is going to leave a city, it is going to leave. Do you think for one minute that this particular controversy is what made Falstaff decide to pick up and leave Omaha? We will find out now. If Falstaff stays, you are going to introduce the bill. If they stay here in Omaha, I am talking about, for more than five years, for two years, you can laugh at me, you can laugh me to scorn. But I think you are establishing a precedent and it ought to be available for others. When Senator Higgins attempted to identify certain special interest groups, she mentioned those who are not making profit by a specific bill offered by the Legislature, and it is to benefit Falstaff because, in fact, not to benefit, it's at Falstaff's demand that this bill is offered because they said the city and the officials and the people don't support Falstaff so we are going home. And the first thing that happened, the legislators began to fall all over themselves, mayoral candidates calling meetings in the Governor's office and all the senators are going to go trotting off to all of these people, popping their fingers and blowing the whistle. The Legislature at some point must think about its own status, its own integrity, and even should you decide to do this kind of thing, allow enough time to pass so it at least has the appearance of decency. The sound of the popping finger and blowing whistle have not even died away yet, and here is a bill being offered and no telling how many Senators are on a plane flying to California to pay court to this individual. My mind is boggled by these types of things. And I wonder just what the Legislature is. Is it the body which is coequal to the other two branches of government? Whatever they say about Judge Krivosha, they can never say he did anything to demean the status of the courts. If anything, people are upset because he is trying to accord to them a dignity that people think they are not entitled to. But anybody, almost, can make the Legislature lie down, roll over, play dead, sit up, bark and beg and whatever. Now suppose they come back from California, the however many number of wise men and women, seeking that star in the west, and say, we went to the manger and he was not there, we don't have anything to tell you.