

March 31, 1981

LB 40

CLERK: 18 ayes, 6 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Motion lost. Senator Carsten. Senator Reutler. Senator Labeledz. That is all the lights I have on. All right, Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, when my legislative district elected me to represent them in the Legislature it was to use my judgement on issues which affect the 29th Legislative District and the State of Nebraska. LB 40 perpetrates a hoax on 48 districts of the state. Now some of those representatives do not wish to admit this as such, but the facts are, we are asking our district to pick up part of Omaha's problem. This is not to say that we should not be concerned about what happens in Omaha for it is a concern for all of the state. However, remember the first time we were asked to give permission for the extra sales tax in Omaha. It was only to be of one year's duration and the senator who brought it in and the senators who supported it said it was to be of one year's duration. Mayor Veys said it was to be of one year's duration. He would be able in that length of time to clean up the act. Unfortunately neither he or other members of city government have made a serious effort to do that. Rather, it was easier to convince a majority of the members of this body to renew the contract, oh, on a limited basis, but still to renew the contract. Extra dollars for sister Omaha because sister Omaha would not bite the bullet such as the rest of the state was having to do. Omaha has some problems. Lincoln has some problems. So does every district in our state. We also have lots of pluses and I have an administration in my city which is making hard decisions. They are not easy for my city's administration. I do not intend to make it sound easy for the City of Lincoln but we should not be helping to the extent of renewing for time in memoriam for the City of Omaha when that community has not made a full faith effort. We are asked to do it. Your community is asked to do it and I am representing part of this community. My vote has to be a no vote on this issue, not because I wish to be mean or vindictive, but because it is not fair to the rest of the citizens of the State of Nebraska for one community to continue indefinitely to have this special privilege. In actuality, a vote of the people is simply some salve for some of the members of the Legislature saying, "If the people want it, why not let them have it?" Are you willing for all the rest of the communities to have that same special consideration? Are you willing to see what happens to our state's....

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.