

March 31, 1981

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SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up, Senator Chambers, I am sorry. Senator DeCamp, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers and Senator Marsh raised a number of issues and questions I would like to address but I think the first one and maybe the thing that Senator Chambers emphasized more than anything else was kind of a personal antiDeCamp and it was in his original arguments on the Omaha sales tax and it was today. Senator Chambers, I would remind you, I would dare any member of the press and any member of the Legislature now or in the past, go check the record. Check the record and you will find that on any major issue that you have worked on and won in the past, I have been with you. I have worked with you and I think I worked hard on district elections for schools, city and a dozen other things and, Senator Chambers, I have walked the ghetto with you. If you forgot, I was the first one before you ever sat down in these legislative chairs and I think, Senator Chambers, if you will also check the record, you will find that you have probably been the principal opponent of almost every major bill I have ever worked on here. I don't mind it. I don't attack you personally on it. It does not bother me and I know you are doing it sincerely and I respect that and so I will tell you my sincere reasons, believe it or not, for the Omaha sales tax. Omaha, like it or not, and I have said it before, is about a third of the state. It is our banking center, our center of commerce. It is like bread and butter. It is the butter. And if we and the rural areas say, well Omaha doesn't matter and shaft Omaha, all we are doing is shafting ourselves. We are elected, as Senator Marsh said and I would like to move to her subject now, to represent our districts but we are also elected to represent the state and I happen to believe that all things considered, the Omaha sales tax situation is best addressed in this particular manner rather than earnings taxes, rather than some other method that has been suggested. And Senator Marsh makes it sound like a crime that Omaha needs a half cent more than Lincoln on their sales tax to operate their city. And Senator Marsh suggests that Omaha just hasn't tightened their belt. Omaha is squandering their money. Omaha is just plain bad. Well, Senator Marsh, if I were you I would look in the mirror and I would see reflected there, Lincoln, and I love Lincoln. It is about the nicest city in the United States by every study that has ever been done. It also is almost sinking into the ground with all the tax money that is put into this city from students, from state government, from federal government buildings, from half the population, like me, like Sieck, like Haberman, paying your sales tax to run your city and talk about tightening your belt. Go check Omaha's records. Go check the potholes. Go check any of the other things. If