

April 1, 1981

LB 253

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I call the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Okay, all those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate has ceased. The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp to close on his amendment to the bill.

SENATOR DeCAMP: I will waive closing.

SPEAKER MARVEL: All those in favor of adopting the amendment vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of Senator DeCamp's amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The amendment is adopted. Okay, the motion now is to advance the bill and the Chair recognizes first Senator Hoagland and then Senator Vickers. Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, we have spent a lot of time talking about this bill and I am as guilty of that as much as anyone but I, what I want to do is just spend a minute or two briefly reminding the body what this bill does, because I think that unless you go through it real carefully, the impact of the bill doesn't really sink in. What this bill does is it levies a litter tax on a whole new class of people, retailers in the State of Nebraska that sell groceries and beer and pop and things like that of over \$350,000 per year according to the amendment that we attached on last time we debated this bill in order to raise money to implement this litter program. Now Senator Sieck has distributed an editorial from a paper in his district which talks about the efficacy of the whole program and I leave that to all of you individually to make up your own minds about. But I think what we are doing here is we are levying tax monies like we do for so many items for a public purpose. In this particular bill we are spreading the tax out over a whole lot of people that have never been taxed before, namely, the retailers. We are requiring them to get a permit before they can operate, to fill out a form, to pay a tax that goes into this fund, and we have all talked previously about how that fund is to spend the money. So I think the fundamental question you have got to ask yourself is, is this program really good enough and really of high enough quality to justify the paperwork and the tax,