

April 2, 1981

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has received in San Francisco when he has sent two or three page telegrams and letters to the administration and did not, he thinks, was totally ignored in part other than receiving some information from the Liquor Commission General Council. I say that these files are open to anyone on the floor or to the press if they would like to see them and I understand there is going to be a public hearing on this same subject on another bill on Monday and I assure you, I will be there to give a lot more information other than what I have just read to you. But in the essence of time and because there will be a public hearing, I would prefer to hold this information and just urge you that time is of the essence and I am sure there is going to be others that speak to you from Omaha because I am sure the major part or all of them from the Omaha delegation are concerned about what is happening to Falstaff. It was not until March 20, 1980, that Mr. Kalmanovitz sent a telegram and said, "The contract expiring on March 31 will not be renewed. The brewery will cease all brewing operations immediately. We will dispose of the inventory and close the plant. All remaining production is being shifted to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where there are no such laws or accusations." And in between that first telegram I read you and the last where he was ceasing operations there are several other telegrams, several other letters that he wrote both to the administration, to the Attorney General, explaining their position and asking, what they were asking for in the end was immediate decision so they could settle it and I did see the plans and specifications in California where they were going to expand the plant because of the fact that they increased business 50% in Nebraska. He did want the plant expanded because even with Falstaff here in Omaha, he was having to ship in merchandise from Fort Wayne, Indiana. So it is essential that we get this amendment attached to this bill on Select File so that we will save time before he closes the plant and I understand, I don't know the mechanism of it, but if he shuts off all the air conditioning after the vats are emptied, the mold immediately sets in and his statement to me, there are several breweries all over the country that have closed but he only knows of one that reopened because of the cost. He also wanted me to give you a message because I told him the rumors all through Nebraska was that the plant was destined to close anyway and this is absolutely untrue. He did have the specs. He did have the plans and he said, you don't close a plant when you are making a profit. He treats the employees fairly. He shared the profits with them and I think it would be a disaster if the State of Nebraska and particularly the City of Omaha lost the Falstaff plant. I urge you to adopt this amendment. After the public hearing on Final Reading after