

April 8, 1981

LB 40

think that we have to look briefly at Omaha's long term problems. It is very possible that within a year Omaha may be between one and two million dollars short even with the extension of the half cent city sales tax. It is very possible that in the interim if there are not significant economies in city government, we will find ourselves looking to some alternative sources of revenue like the garbage collection fee. That is a possibility ever with the extension of the half cent city sales tax. Omaha's financial situation is irminous...imminent I think is the better word and very, very difficult in terms of the extended future. We may, in fact, find ourselves back in the Legislature looking at alternative sources or authorization for alternative sources within a short period of time. But for the political realities of the day, I will support the extension of the termination in 1984 because I think it will bring us the necessary votes, or, at least, keep the kind of support we need to continue the sales tax which we are so dependent upon. I urge your adoption of the DeCamp amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator...do we have an amendment on the desk to the DeCamp amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hoagland moves to amend the DeCamp amendment by striking '84 and inserting 1988.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, you know, I am just really tired having been down here for three years and seeing the sales tax issue time and time again be used to hold Omaha hostage for other kinds of legislation. And I think that this amendment is just another attempt to bring the sales tax back in before this body in two or three years, so once again the Omaha sales tax issue can be held hostage to issues like the Vet College, to issues like the distribution for \$70 million and so on and so on and so forth. Now I think either the Omaha City Council ought to have the authority to levy an additional half cent sales tax or not. And to keep Mickey Mousing around and bringing it back session after session after session is really unconscionable, it is unfair to the people of the City of Omaha, and it generally contributes to the vote trading and the log rolling and the packaging that takes place on the floor of this Legislature. And I am not prepared to concede without a vote and without a fight that this body is unwilling to give us a lengthy substantial extension of the Omaha sales tax. And my amendment up here on the desk right now would extend the sales tax until 1988,