

April 8, 1981

LB 40

and it would put it beyond the reach of this Legislature for eight years, and I think it ought to be beyond the reach of this Legislature for eight years because it really, I think these kinds of motives in acting and dealing with legislation are just plain wrong. Either the Omaha sales tax should stand on its own merits or not. But this business of continued votes of the people, of continued sunset clauses is just not right and I am not willing to concede that this body is going to act with those kind of motives until we have tested it with a vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, you know, Senator Newell was up here a few minutes ago lamenting the problems of the City of Omaha, and I am sure that they are indeed serious problems, but you have to kind of wonder in light of yesterday's election results how serious the people of Omaha are about their financial problems. If you will take a look at this morning's World Herald, you will indicate that their priorities are more parks, more tennis courts, more swimming pools. They approved a bond issue for more recreational facilities, when they have in theory the serious problems that Senator Newell alluded to, and while that may not present a very serious problem for Omaha in the near future as far as property taxes are concerned, it is certainly an indication that they are not very willing to take care of their problems as far as property taxes are concerned. Now their priorities, I guess I can't understand their priorities. In Hemingford when the city wants a new tennis court, you know, they put in a swimming pool not too long ago and they've done some of those kinds of things, but they kind of look and see if they have the money and they don't come to the Legislature asking for special taxes and things that the rest of the state don't have all the time. So I guess I am not as sympathetic as some of the other members of the Legislature might be with Omaha's problems when you look at the action of the people of the City of Omaha just as late as yesterday. As far as extending it to 1988, maybe there should be a little more accountability and they ought to come back down to the Legislature on occasion. I would hope that we could put together some kind of a revenue sharing program at some point in time, perhaps even give Omaha more money than we are giving other parts of the state, and get rid of this sales tax and quit eroding the state tax