

April 8, 1981

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long term and July 1, 1984, seemed to be reasonable.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now where is...Senator Hoagland, I would like to ask you a question, but while you are coming, I would ask Senator Newell one. Senator Newell, I read where you were quoted in the news media, and I didn't see where they printed a retraction, that even with the extension of the half percent sales tax Omaha would probably need an additional half cent. Did you say that...of sales tax?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I did.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Where will that other half cent come from if it is to come from anywhere? Would the Legislature have to grant that authority?

SENATOR NEWELL: It would. I am, basically....

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's all I wanted, and then you car....

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, if you want me to answer the question, I would be more than happy to answer the question, but I think....

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Let me get Senator Hoagland before my time runs out, and then if I have time I will come back to you.

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, simply said, I said that we might need an extension in the near future because of the financial problems of the city. Now....

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, you didn't mean an additional half cent on top of this one?

SENATOR NEWELL: No, I said that I thought that the half cent extension that we are asking for now, which is the extension of what we already are authorized, may, in fact, not be adequate, and that we are going to have to look at some other source. I did not necessarily say a half cent... another half cent above that. I said some other sources of revenue.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so we see from what Senator Newell has said that the half cent is not enough, and if Omaha is going to have to face some hard economic decisions, why not do like Abraham Lincoln said about the Civil War, "Until a crisis is reached and passed, the issue of the Union's togetherness will never be resolved". So apparently Omaha