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LB 40

is going to at some point have to reach a crisis, and if the Legislature irresponsibly postpones it while these new people are given a false sense of security, made to think that this half cent that you might grant them is adequate, then they find out it is not and then they have to come and add another half cent to the top of that, I think it is an unfair thing to do to them. But here is what I would like to ask Senator Hoagland. Senator Hoagland, this relates to your "let my politicians go" amendment. By extending the sales tax to 1988, did I understand your intent to be to prevent Omaha from being wrapped up in these other bills where votes could be obtained from the Omaha Senators in exchange for the Legislature going along with Omaha getting a sales tax extension?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I think essentially, Senator Chambers, I don't like Omaha year after year after year being held hostage by the sales tax issue, and I think we should get it out of this body. Either Omaha is entitled to levy a half cent sales tax or not. Let's make that decision up or down, one way or the other.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I am going to surprise Senator Hoagland. Rural members of the Legislature, I support Senator Hoagland's amendment. I think you may as well extend it to 1988 or even 1990 to have it rounded off very nicely. His amendment is reasonable if the real intent is to help Omaha out of a financial plight. And I am going to see if that is what the intention of the Legislature is. I hate that Senator Schmit is not here because he said these bills are not linked together and I agree that they should not be. As you all know, I am opposed to the sales tax being extended. I am opposed to the sales tax on food whether it is by the state or the city and an increase in the city's tax automatically increases the amount of the tax on food. So there is no way that I in conscience can support an increase in the sales tax. But to get some equities balanced and brought into focus here, I think Senator Hoagland's amendment will accomplish that purpose. So in disregard of how I might vote ultimately on the bill, I am supporting his amendment to the DeCamp amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, as you all know I am a Senator from Omaha and I am opposed to the sales tax. But last night in Omaha we had an election and it looks like Omaha is going to have some new leadership in the City Council, and I think the present leadership...I think the President is named Steve Rosenblatt,