

April 8, 1981

LB 40

be quite soon. First Senator Koch will escort the Mother of the Year, Mrs. Jackson. Senator Nichol will escort Mrs. Stoddard, the Junior Mother of the Year, I guess they call it. And Senator Marsh, will you escort Mrs. Henderson and the rest of her committee. So when the Sergeant at Arms announces that, why we will proceed to the special ceremony. We will proceed then with the next speaker in the order of speaking which is Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker...Mr. Chairman. I am in agreement with Senator Johnson. It makes me very sad to realize that Omaha is not going to get LB 40 in its original form. I think too that the people of Omaha support overwhelmingly the extension of the Omaha city sales tax and in my estimation when it did go to the vote of the people, it would have shown that. As I reminded you the other day, there was about 50 or 60 people here visiting from Omaha and out of that group there was only one person that raised her hand and said that she opposed the Omaha city sales tax. I believe that Senator Johnson was right. We are bringing this bill...or this issue, back year after year and to extend it to 1984 is better than nothing, to 1988 is even better than that. But I am very reluctant to vote for either amendment because I think Omaha deserves the support of this Legislature to be able to put it on the ballot. LB 40 in its original form would have been ideal. It would have made a lot of people, not just the city officials, but the City of Omaha, the people themselves do deserve a right to vote on whether or not we are going to have an Omaha city sales tax. It is frightening to believe though that LB 40 would not pass without one of the amendments, and it puts me in a predicament knowing that the people would prefer to vote and yet we are going to have to settle for 1984 or 1988. I would much rather have seen us vote on LB 40 in its original form. So I urge the members of this Legislature to think twice about what we are doing to the people of Omaha. It deserves a vote of the people. In two years, and as Senator Higgins mentioned, we are going to have new administration in the City Council, at least, only one member was elected incumbent and there will be new leadership in the City of Omaha, and, therefore, I still think that LB 40 in its original form was the best way to go, and very sadly I will have to vote for one of the amendments, but think twice what we are doing. We are taking away again the right to vote from the people, and they deserve that in Omaha. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.