

April 8, 1981

LB 40

Omaha what they should do. I think we have too long been solving the problems, the financial problems, of Omaha. I think we ought to leave Omaha alone, let them solve their problems if they have them, let them go to their own people if they have financial problems, let those people who vote solve the problem. I was not in favor of district elections, but no, the Legislature says, by golly, you are going to do it the way we say not the way your people want it. And I think we should allow the people in Omaha to run their own city. If they run it in the ground, okay, they can change their public officials. If the public officials come in don't want a tax, let them live with it. If they find out after they get there they have to have one, let them put it to a vote of the people in Omaha. I am getting a little tired of trying to solve Omaha's problems. I live 450 miles from Omaha, if you go around by the way of the Interstate exactly. What do I know about it? Not all that much. All of you with the exception of some 13 or 14 live outside of the City of Omaha and here we are about 35 or 6 or 7 of us trying to tell Omaha how to solve their problems. I hope some day Omaha takes care of their own problem and handles it and quits coming down here and saying, won't you help us out, won't you bail us out with this? Let them handle their own problems.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, things have reached a turn now where I can't just look at the amendments, I have to look at the broader reality. Senator Lamb, my heart is with what you are doing, but I have got a message to the delegation that comes from Omaha and Douglas County. I have watched you whine, snivel and beg these people to give you things and you don't get it. I think a line has to be drawn and you say I have been pushed this far and I will be pushed no further. You ought to defeat this amendment and any other amendment to LB 40 and push for the bill as it was introduced. And if you lose the bill, you will salvage something of your self-respect and dignity for the city that you say means so much to you. Now that city is trying to destroy my community so it doesn't mean anything to me. But unfortunately I continue to be lumped with this delegation, and when the rest swallows spit, they think that is what I am doing too. So what you ought to do is draw the battle line, or accept the battle line that has been drawn, Senator Goodrich, Senator Labeledz, Senator Newell, and say we are going to fight for the sales tax bill as it was introduced with no compromises and without being a hostage. And if that means that the rural Senators will not vote for it, tell them