

April 8, 1981

LB 40

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, for the first time today I rise to support Senator Chambers. I'm in total agreement with my colleague from north Omaha. And I think we all understand the game here and I think that is exactly it. You know, I first thought there was some sincere desire, a very sincere desire to see this sunsetted, and then I've come to realize that that sincerity is really just a poorly guised desire to kind of link this thing together again in 1983. Well, I rise to oppose that. I guess there does come a time, as Senator Johnson said to me so eloquently in the car the other day, there comes a time when you just can't play the game no more and you have to be a little honest and you have to be a little forthright and you say, you know, we will go a couple steps and we will go a long ways, but, you know, we just can't go and go and go forever. Now the goose is sick and I am not sure that there is a lot of folks who have been eating off that table, that Christmas goose that's sick, we will call it Omaha, been eating off that table for a long, long time and they want to keep eating off that table. Well, that table may not be near as attractive as some believe it is. That goose is sick. That goose...that meat may not be all that great and those people who have been feeding off of Omaha and wish to continue to do it with this amendment, try to tie it together, might find that the meal is a little bad, tasteless, unedible. Omaha is in financial trouble. There is no question about it. We need the sales tax. There can't be much debate about that. We are going to have to find other alternative sources in the years to come. There is very little debate about that. We should, in fact, fight for our fair share of distribution under the \$70 million, but we don't because we are being held a hostage, hostage to some people who play games, who offer deals and so forth. I guess we have come to the end of our rope here. This amendment, if there is a desire to have a legitimate sunset, let that be '84, not '83. That's to satisfy those who legitimately believe that this issue ought to come back before the Legislature, those people who wish to use it. I would hope you would reject that and move this bill along.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I have been here now going on my fifth year and I have sat here day after day trying very hard to agree with some of the things that Senator Chambers has brought up, and today for the first time I believe that I one hundred percent agree with Senator Chambers. I don't agree with some of his remarks because I guess I am a little naive, I hate to think that