

May 8, 1981

LB 12

CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB 12, I have a series of amendments. The first that I have is offered by Senator Beutler. Mr. President while we are waiting for Senators Beutler and Chambers, I have an amendment from Senator Sieck to the bill. It is Request 2259.

SENATOR SIECK: Yes. Mr. President and members of the body, this amendment is really a simple amendment. At the present time the Meals on Wheels, a nonprofit organization, by definition in the law, at the present time have to pay sales tax on those meals that are provided for the elderly. Now we only have one of those in the State of Nebraska to our study so far, and that is in Seward, Nebraska. We have a nonprofit organization that is providing meals for the elderly at cost and below cost, whatever the individual can afford. What this amendment does is exempt them or a nonprofit organization of Meals on Wheels for elderly and handicapped persons not to have to pay sales tax on that particular item. Now in most cases the Department of Aging which we just discussed recently is providing meals throughout the State of Nebraska, but in Seward, Nebraska we have an organization that feels that they can do a better job than the Department of Aging and they love to do this but they feel they are jeopardized against because they are charged sales tax and these other agencies don't have to pay sales tax, or the people that get the food do not have to pay a sales tax. So why shouldn't they be treated the same? I feel that they should. So I am asking you to support this amendment so that these individuals will not have to pay sales tax on that food. I attached this to this bill because I felt that it was germane and was such a simple issue that I didn't feel it merited a public hearing. So I highly endorse you to support this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, I support this amendment. I agreed with Senator Sieck that I would support it and so I hope you vote for it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, just a question of Senator Sieck. I don't necessarily support or oppose it, but I was wondering, in some instances I understand that they buy their food as catered by other concerns who some are not tax exempt. Now I was wondering for the record if you wanted to exempt all those furnishing the food as well as those who are presently exempt from paying tax.