

May 14, 1981

LB 3

PRESIDENT: Time is about up.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. As far as LB 3 goes I probably will vote for it. I'm just grateful that we got a chance to tell the rest of the Legislature what is really going on with the utility companies. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, I call for the question, please.

PRESIDENT: All right, do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 8 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. Debate ceases. Senator Wiitala, you may close.

SENATOR WIITALA: Mr. President, members of the body, I am quite surprised at what is taking place here today in reference to this amendment. For the greatest portion of this session we have considered all kinds of, all nature of business that refers and reflects on commerce and industry and agriculture in this body. Two major bills were introduced this session that would directly affect the homeowner. One was the elimination of the sales tax on food and the other was the elimination of the sales tax on utilities. Time and time again they are heard in committee and are never referred to this body. In my opening remarks I apologized to you for introducing this amendment at a late moment but I want you to understand that this amendment had its hearing in Senator Labedz's bill, LB 61, and also I was kind enough to allow this amendment to be presented on Final Reading, realizing that it would be criticized. I agreed to the compromise not to offer it on Select File so that we could hear it today. We are interested in attracting industry to Nebraska and we are interested in preserving commerce and industry in this state but I think we should also be interested too in attracting people and maintaining a good life, not only for industry, agriculture and commerce but also for the residential homeowner or the person who dwells in a rented dwelling. The question is survival. I support LB 3 and I will continue to support it because I feel that it will help enable industry and business to survive in this state but I also say that one of the biggest questions that we are debating here is the survival of the