

May 14, 1981

LB 3

is going to pass, I don't see why this one should pass and I would rather see this one fail, LB 3 fail, and the homeowner of the state get his food sales tax credit rather than the other way around which I fear is what is going to happen this morning. I have seen no evidence to date that this bill is even really necessary. When I talked to my Chamber of Commerce and asked them what the number one problem is in Nebraska as far as attracting industry is concerned, and I think everyone outstate will tell you the same thing, the number one problem is, we don't have a labor force here in Nebraska. Our unemployment rate is so low that industry is afraid to come here because we do not have a labor force. Well maybe what we should be doing is trying to attract a bigger labor force. You know, if rationally the reason that we can't get industry, the main reason is that we don't have a labor force then shouldn't we be attracting a labor force? Shouldn't we have passed the Wittala amendment which would have made life more attractive for people considering moving into Nebraska or better yet, how do we keep all those people from moving out of Nebraska? During the 1970s we have a net export rate, I believe, in terms of people. How do we keep them in by making life more attractive in Nebraska? How about lessening the utility rate such as Senator Wittala suggested? Or if we are going to exempt industry, the use of equipment that is being used for the first time by new industry in the state, why don't we exempt from the sales tax, household appliances for people who first move into the state? Huh? Why not that? It is labor that we need. That is why we don't have more industry. So I really think that if the budget is so tight and if we have to cut out some things and apparently we do, I think that makes sense, that this is one of the things that can certainly go and certainly before we lower the increase in the food sales tax credit. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, nine days. I am one who doesn't like to see bills harassed by putting on amendments and I am not saying you shouldn't put on amendments but I am begging you at this time, if it is necessary to put on amendments, please let's not talk it to death. We get up. We think we have to use our full five minutes which spends a little over four hours of everybody's time each time you talk five minutes of the collective time. So I urge us to get on with the business. If we must speak, let's keep it succinct and to the point so we get something done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp. Where is Senator DeCamp? Oh, you are recognized. Do you want to