

April 7, 1982

LB 757

urge you to vote against bringing this bill back.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I call the question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Yes, I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? The question is, shall debate cease? Record the vote.

CLERK: 19 ayes, 11 nays, to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The next speaker is Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I will be brief. Senator Hefner, you are absolutely right, if we bring this bill back it is going to take time and priority bills are not going to be heard. There is nothing more important to me than my priority bill except seeing to it that people do not starve to death in this state, so I would forego my priority bill if I can do anything at all to remove the sales tax on food. And I want to point out again that the sales tax on food hurts the little people, the people who don't own a lot of property, the people who don't have stocks and bonds. And, Senator VonMinden, you are concerned about those people coming from Iowa into Nebraska to get ADC. Let me tell you something. I have got a sister that lives up in Sloan, Iowa just 20 miles south of Sioux City, and she said, you ought to see the Nebraska cars from South Sioux City that come to Sioux City, Iowa to spend their money on groceries because they don't have a sales tax on groceries. And gasoline is cheaper over in Iowa so they fill up their gasoline tank. So, Senator VonMinden, you are losing so much money in Dakota County and sending it all over to Iowa. And the same is in Omaha, we see these people every week going across the bridge into Council Bluffs to fill up their gas tanks, buy their groceries, and, of course, if we increase the sales tax on cigarettes, they will be buying their cigarettes there too, or we add the added tax to it. I want to remind the body that this sales tax that we have was fought for years in the Legislature and it wasn't passed until we sweetened the pie by paying the business men 3 percent to collect the sales tax, and I hope this summer when I am touring the State of Nebraska to bring home to the people the fact that they are paying to have their taxes collected. I don't think this amendment is going to pass. It never has because we have the strong lobby groups of business men who don't want the