

April 7, 1982

LB 757

taxes. England felt that they could establish the right of Parliament to tax the colonies by an innocuous tax on tea, not a large amount. The intent was not to raise revenue but just to maintain the right of Parliament to levy taxes on the colonies. The colonists stated that their rights could not be purchased for the price of a cup of tea. So as you know at the Boston Tea Party they experimented with how well tea could be made with salt water. Now we don't have those kind of objections expressed by the populace in these days. People are more willing to let their elected representatives look out for their best interests. In this case I wish the senators who do not come from the Omaha area would view the citizens independently of how you may view any of us who come from Omaha as senators, view them as citizens of the state who have an undue burden placed on them if this amendment is not adopted. So that it is clear what the amendment does, it takes one half percent from the amount of sales tax currently being levied by cities of the metropolitan class. I hope you will adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner. We really ought to have...I have never done this before but I think we ought to have at least one other speaker.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose bringing this bill back to add this amendment. I think that a lot of us warned you in the previous years that if the city sales tax got too high, then the senators from that particular area would oppose raising the state sales tax and this is what is happening. At the present time we have a bill before us that would give Lincoln the authority or at least let it be brought before a vote of the people to increase the sales tax a half a percent in Lincoln. And, of course, it will be very interesting to see what senators vote for this bill. Therefore, I would urge you to vote against the Chambers motion to bring this bill back to strike a half a percent sales tax from those cities that have it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I kind of have mixed emotions about Senator Chambers' motion. In one sense I feel that if it is adopted it will severely weaken 757. On the other sense I kind of think this would bring this whole issue to a head and maybe 757 ought not pass. I certainly don't think it ought to pass without the elimination of sales tax on food. If Senator Chambers' amendment is attached to this bill, that would give