

April 7, 1982

LB 757

for having sent those representatives here. But we know that the people don't have much opportunity to judge in advance what manner of man or woman they will send to the Legislature to represent them. We know that with the meager coverage that the news media is able to give to legislative proceedings, there is very little in the way of an accurate picture anybody will have of anyone of us and certainly no accurate picture of the group as a whole. So this is not the time to take a vindictive stance and say, I will not vote for this amendment because we told the Omaha senators this day would come. You are not the only ones who told them and they themselves knew it, but they just thought it would be postponed further in the future and we all know based on how human nature operates, if an impending crisis is impending but far off in the future, it is not even viewed as a crisis and is not even viewed as impending and that seems to be a contradiction of terms. But as a problem gets closer and closer people become more aware of it. They realize that something must be done about it. This is the time when something needs to be done about this situation and those senators who claim that the state should not give its tax base, should vote for this amendment. Those senators who believe in equity as far as taxation is concerned ought to vote for this amendment. The impact or the effect of this amendment is to say that Omaha taxpayers where the sales tax is concerned will continue to pay the same amount that they are paying now, 4½ percent. Most of the rest of the state with the increase that 757 is imposing will be paying only 3½ percent. So I am not telling you to give anything to the people who pay taxes in Omaha, but I am asking that we stop being Hood Robin which means to take from the poor to give to those who are not poor. The sales tax does that. I don't see how anybody who says they have a mixed feeling about this bill could vote against the amendment. The reason there is a mixed feeling is because you know what is right but you are wondering about...I don't know what word to use, I don't want to use one of those bad terms that indicates somebody is just political in their vote, but whatever the term is that I don't want to say, you know what it is. You know what is right but for some reason....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:it doesn't seem feasible or convenient to do what is right. That is the only reason there is a mixed feeling. The mixture of feeling doesn't come because you can't determine what ought to be done. The problem is that you know what ought to be done but you are reluctant to do it. And I say whenever that type of moral dilemma arises, the thing to do is what is right. You can always live when