

April 8, 1982

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and their daughter Sheri. They are the parents of our Page, Jeff Weak. Would you stand and be recognized, please. Thank you. We have enjoyed Jeff during this session. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I guess I would support the Vickers amendment. I guess not so much that I think there is any chance it would pass recognizing the items that Senator Warner just identified for the cost, but nevertheless as a protest of the fact that we have yet to issue a new license now ever since our Bicentennial year. And it is not because perhaps the plate isn't pretty as Senator Marsh was talking about and that it is not a nice plate, but it is getting a little old and the Bicentennial has passed many years ago, and it may be just about time real soon here to get a new plate. There is also a practical side to the thing and that is something I wanted to bring out to your attention. We have a problem in this state of enforcing our registration of vehicles because we have no new license plates issued for as long as we have gone. I wrote to the Police Department about three or four months ago and I said I have gotten some complaints from constituents that no cars...they weren't being properly registered and why wasn't somebody catching them? And this was their response. "Now you asked how people who drive improperly licensed cars are caught and is the problem a serious one". Addressing the last part, "Yes, we consider it a very serious problem. Your estimate of five out of every hundred cars being improperly registered is very low. Enforcement is difficult. During the year 1980 our department issued only 413 citations for this offense. The problem with enforcement is the state's retention of the same license plate year after year, an issuance of a very small license plate sticker. To confirm the difficulty I would suggest that as you are driving our streets you attempt to identify improperly licensed vehicles that you pass which are either parked or being driven. Placed on the license plates the stickers are generally dirty and very difficult to see. About the only enforcement that occurs is when the registration violation is discovered as a result of a contact on some other violation such as speeding. They are fortunate here in Lincoln they feel because we are going to have a wheel tax ordinance that will have another sticker." What that is saying...what that letter is saying is that we have got to do something about our license plates and our registration process. We are not able to enforce our registration laws because nobody can see the sticker that we have and we don't change the license plate. That is a

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