

March 7, 1989

LB 775

out for you a letter from the President of the City Council, Mr. Conley, stating their support for the bill, and the fact that they, in themselves, feel that it is a regressive tax in many cases. I would urge the committee...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...to advance LB 775 to E & R. The question of whether or not this bill could be a vehicle to address some of the issues, as Senator Johnson raised, with regard to other matters that need to be revised with regard to bingo and pickles I think is one that should be addressed on Select File and probably makes very good sense. But I would look at 775 as the first revision, the first revision. It has taken about five years to have it happen, but it is the first revision with regard to the issue of correcting what I would consider a very unfair tax. I would urge the body's advancement of LB 775 to E & R Initial. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I was going to call the question, but after listening to Senator Beck and Senator Hall's statements, I think it is important to just...one other side of the story is pointed out here this morning. What we are really talking about, in my opinion, as I am one of those people that often thinks in terms of dollars and cents is we are talking about simply taking \$200,000 away from the Omaha City Council, with Fred Conley's blessing. I don't think it is the Omaha City Council's blessing, evidently, but it is somebody's blessing on the Omaha City Council. It is \$200,000, rightfully or wrongfully, you know, I don't know how right it is to collect cigarette tax and then pay to build parks with it, theoretically. And there are some other things there that, right or wrong, a tax source is always questionable, but if you pass LB 775 as now amended, as you are well aware of, it affects only the City of Omaha. It affects \$200,000. Does it mean the City of Omaha is going to get \$200,000, or does it mean the charitable organizations will get \$200,000? That is \$200,000. If you take it away from the City of Omaha, it is going to come from somewhere. It is going to come from us out of our General Fund, it is going to come from the Omaha property taxpayers, \$200,000 just doesn't go up in smoke and go someplace else. So, I, briefly, wanted to point out before we just pass this bill in good humor maybe this morning by some of us, or in good faith