

May 17, 1989

LB 198

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, please, followed by Senator Weihing.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, I was going to make the same point that Ernie just did. Two years ago we let Ak-Sar-Ben out. They're making money at this point but paying no state taxes. Ak-Sar-Ben was a good thing. We created a tax exemption and now they don't pay taxes. This year we have already passed a \$200,000 tax exemption for Joslyn. It's already on the books. We have a lodging tax passed for the arts in Omaha, passed by this session. This is a tax put on lodging but to pay for and assist in tourism and the arts in Omaha. We have a \$200,000 tax exemption for bingo in Omaha because of the charities up there. And in this situation now when you and I go to the museum and pay tax, as any other ticket holder would, we'll pay the tax but the patron will not. We don't know how much money there is, to whom it applies or how much. It seems to me that we have done quite enough this year. It is also a source of an irrational, I confess, but nonetheless real frustration that we won't discuss Commonwealth a second time but we will discuss this issue a second time and the Omaha elite will send down the word to do this and do this until it passes down here and the Legislature does what the Omaha community wants us to do. Frankly, I have very little taste to do so. I am voting red again.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Weihing, please, followed by Senator Langford.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Lindsay, will you rise to a question, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes.

SENATOR WEIHING: When this came to your attention did it realize that there were other areas, other museums that would suddenly fall under this that had not been paying any tax?

SENATOR LINDSAY: No, as I mentioned in my opening, it was brought to me by the zoo and, obviously, their concern was the zoo.

SENATOR WEIHING: I want to speak with regards to that of the