

March 16, 1990

LB 1229

LR 11

CLERK: Mr. President, very quickly, Senator Lynch would like to have a meeting of the Rules Committee in the lounge now; Rules Committee in the Senate Lounge now. That is all that I have.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Peterson, followed by Senator Hefner, then Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President, and members, I, too, rise to oppose Senator Hall's amendment. I am kind of surprised that Senator Hall would introduce this amendment because I think all of the cities should be involved and with less federal money in coming down the pike and probably less in the next few years, maybe Omaha doesn't need it right now, but if they do in a couple of years, then we have to have another constitutional amendment and we can correct that as Senator Hartnett, I think, explained in LB 1229, if this passes, and we need Omaha and all the cities involved in it. I would relinquish the rest of my time to Senator Scofield.

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, please. You have eight minutes...three minutes left.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President and Senator Peterson. I don't know that I would add very much to what has been said. I would suggest that Senator Hall could address his concerns on the enabling legislation, and while Omaha, as Senator Peterson mentioned, doesn't need this right now, I would be reluctant to have this amendment added to the constitutional amendment; number one being should those federal sources go away as we have seen them start to go away in significant amounts and that trend continues, there might come a time when Omaha would want this and then, of course, we would have to go through the whole process of yet another constitutional amendment, and at the same time, I think we can address the concerns that Senator Hall is raising through the enabling legislation. It would...furthermore, just in terms of the nature of passing a constitutional amendment in the state, it does take the votes of everybody in the state, and this concerns me as a person who believes this is an extremely important thing for all of the communities of the state. Doing this through the constitutional amendment concerns me because there might be good reason for a person from Omaha to look at that amendment and say, well, this doesn't have anything to do with me, and while they didn't maybe really have strong feelings one way or the other, they simply wouldn't vote for the amendment and that could defeat the