

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 3, 1999

LB 382

Landis, and Senator Wickersham primarily were engaged in. And one person was surprised because he did not realize even after all that discussion that no arena is associated with this bill. I saw him in Albertson's, which is a grocery store that I stop into on the way home because it's right off the highway on about 108th, and he was saying that I should not resist this bill so much because of all the money it would bring to the city by way of these concerts and bands and so forth. I said I don't think you and I are talking about the same thing. He mentioned these commercials that he hears on the radio and the various artists, performing artists who are excerpted and then the remark from the radio stations, just build it, or whatever it is. I said, no, that's not going to be a part of this. And he said, well, why not? I said, well, the city and those people who are supporting it had to find a way to get money from the state and the state was not going to agree to having any arena. Apparently, and I'm paraphrasing because I don't really know the thought patterns of the members of the Revenue Committee, it was felt that something like that should be of a local origin. So he wondered why then all the hubbub about a building like this. And I told him, I can tell you why I'm opposed to it; but you have to ask others why they support it and you can start it with the mayor's office and certain members of the city council. But one thing is crystal clear. This project is ultimately going to be funded through local taxes. There is no way around that. Apparently, Senator Wickersham is not going to be here today and Senator Landis doesn't answer questions on reconsideration so...and Senator Raikes is not here. For this motion, I will just discuss various issues. This has a peculiar way of financing. The only application which will be considered qualified is one where the local political subdivision has issued general obligation bonds. That is a mandated requirement. Now if Senator Wickersham were here, I would ask him why the committee did that because people in Omaha are under the impression that there's going to be a big boost in state money. So what I propose to do today in the five hours that I shall have is to go through this bill step by step, point out the problems that I see in it, the poor drafting, not just grammatical but the inconsistent terms used in connection with this so-called eligible facility. But I intend not to rush the issue. I'm going to take my time and your time. And I'm not at all...