

March 20, 1984

LB 891

would do is strike that portion of the bill or the committee amendment that does away with the property tax exemption for those nonprofit, charitable, educational religious institutions or clubs that serve alcoholic beverages. I believe, Senator Carsten, I've talked to Senator Carsten about this amendment. I'm sure he will feel that he needs to stand and oppose it but let me give you some of the reasons why I feel that we should eliminate that portion of the bill. There are many American Legion Clubs, Eagles, Elks, other charitable organizations that do so many good things for the people of our communities and part of the way they are able to come up with the money to help out people in the community and the community is by having parties, raising money from those parties and serving a little beer or alcoholic beverage at that party. Some of the organizations and some of the things that they support, or these charitable organizations support, are like Little League Baseball, scholarships for high school students. They sponsor young men and women to attend Boys and Girls State, community baseball in the community. They give money to the Salvation Army, the Arthritis Foundation, the Tree of Life, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Heart Fund, the Cancer Fund, the Children's fund, bowling leagues, all kinds of things for people in the community and the community. I really believe that we need to exempt them from property tax even if they do sell a little liquor to help raise money to provide those monies for those communities and community activities and people of the community. I would hope that you might be able to support this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would rise to oppose the amendment by Senator Kilgarin and Morehead basically for two reasons and I know what Senator Kilgarin is referring to is the clubs or the organizations in Omaha and I want to tell you first of all that we cannot look or should not look at the use of the monies that is made from those receipts. We need to look at the basic concepts of taxation and exemptions. Now we can go very well into the various areas that those groups do do extremely great things and we are appreciative of them.