

February 10, 1986 LB 1012

Omaha, to the people that have to use the bus system every day to go back and forth to work, the elderly, of course, that no longer are able to drive a car. It is not...LB 1012 merely provides the Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to increase the levy from 10 cents to \$100...per \$100 of value. It is not mandatory that this levy be increased. Since 1980 MAT has not levied the maximum allowed under the present statute. As testimony at the hearing indicated, every effort will be made to keep the levy as low as possible. MAT has made major cuts in service expenses, and a plan to increase the ridership is now being implemented this month. After cutting services, due to calendar year 1985 funding reductions, MAT decided that further service reductions could not be made without a serious impact on those citizens that depend on public transportation. LB 1012 is very vital and necessary for anticipation of the cuts that will be coming forward through the Gramm-Rudman Act, and by the state cut in revenue...you look very nice, Senator Goll, and by the cuts that were made last year by the State of Nebraska. I urge the passage of LB 1012. It is vitally important to the citizens of Omaha and, as I said, those especially that need the buses daily to get to and from work, the elderly that have to go to the doctor and possibly even go to the grocery store. Thank you very much.

SENATOR GOLL: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I have a motion on this bill, but maybe I'll speak to the bill first. Correct? The first place is this is probably my bill for a heyday. Two or three things I noticed, one thing is that this bill merely provides for the authority to increase property tax revenue, does not mandate an increase. In other words, it is just sitting there waiting in case the increase is needed. I seem to think of a bill that we had last week, very similar to this. If I figure correctly, we are going from 3 to 10 cents, not from 7 to 12 cents, which makes it, in my calculations, a 285 percent increase in funding. From 3 cents to 10 goes from 2,253,000 to 7 million dollars. I call that greediness. It seems to me like this is special legislation for a special group, again raising property tax. It just simply cannot be needed. I believe there is an amendment filed up there. Yes, would you take up my amendment at this time?

SENATOR GOLL: There is an amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.