

February 8, 1974

SENATOR NORE: Now Senator Syas, who sends the money.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nore, would you speak into the mike please?

SENATOR NORE: What percentage of the passengers of the Omaha airport are from Omaha?

SENATOR SYAS: Well I wouldn't have the slightest idea, would you?

SENATOR NORE: Yes I would have a pretty good idea, I would probably say maybe 80 or 90% of them are from outstate. That is where they go to spend their money. We are paying the taxes, Omaha isn't paying them.

SENATOR SYAS: You are? I am very glad to hear that because I can't feel it that way.

PRESIDENT: Alright is there any further discussion on the amendments? Senator Waldron, would you care to close on your amendments?

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think that the issue has been discussed enough. You know we have had this problem with other state agencies that are operated on cash funds, and no state agency wants to give up any of their operational budget. This is important, airports are important to Nebraska but like other things, they should be funded out of the general fund if that is where we are to go. I think that it is unfortunate that Nebraska has the highest tax in the state. Now we are talking about, I have opposed this bill in the past, and I think that I have finally come around to the point of view that it is really not too bad of an idea. Of course, the airlines would like to get all of the tax removed, that is no question about it, \$68,000 doesn't really mean anything in the financial balance sheet of an airline like United Air Line, it really means nothing. It is just the idea that they would like to get it all off, but this is about the closest that we can get to a compromise. Like Senator Nore says, I know it is not political expedient to introduce this bill and get up and talk for it because I will get some opposition from people that would be involved with the airport authority. But then my policy and most of you know it in the past up here that I am not a political expedient person, I think integrity is by far more important and in getting up and speaking for in what you believe in than doing exactly what is politically expedient. I would hope that you would take a serious look at this and I wish that you would talk to the Department of Aeronautics people, they are opposed to it but not as strongly as they have been in the past involving a greater reduction of revenue, and let's try it for a year and see if United Air Lines is telling us the truth, in a sense that they say that they would purchase enough additional fuel to make up the loss of the \$68,000. Let's see if they would do that. I know in the future they will probably be in for a greater reduction in their taxes because it is an inconvenience for them as well as a little bit of an expense for them to have this tax here and they have to take that into consideration when the petition the CAD for additional service into the state of Nebraska, and I think that anything we can do to encourage the airline industry in the state of Nebraska, we should do it and especially since this bill only affects that one carrier, I think they have had a good reputation for serving Nebraska and it is unfortunate we don't have enough traffic to serve more of the communities in Nebraska by a major carrier.

PRESIDENT: Alright the motion before us is the Waldron motion to strike the committee amendments and adopt his amendment. All