

April 3, 1974

SEANTOR BARNETT: OK, then...

CLERK: Do you want to take up these?

SENATOR BARNETT: Right, then....

CLERK: Then we can adopt those. They are an amendment to a committee amendment.

SENATOR BARNETT: Do I have to adopt the committee amendment which is the bill?

SPEAKER: No, you have to adopt the amendments to the committee amendments.

SENATOR BARNETT: OK. Then we will go from there. The amendment that we are now talking about is the short one. It says (read amendment) alright, in this issue that we have we have before us what we requested a centrum building, they had a judges decision against this in the city of Lincoln. The city of Lincoln approached us to try and do something to correct the problem. We have now included every city with this amendment and they may, by ordinance, the mayor and city council issue bonds for construction of off-street parking facilities. Alright now, this amendment at the back, states that these facilities these off-stree parking facilities shall be subject to the referendum procedure applicable to such city as

(end belt #6)

(start belt #7)

provided by the state statute or its home rule charter. In other words the city council & the Mayor's or whoever governs the off-street parking facilities can now issue these bonds and if the people want to vote on it they can come up with a referendum vote which as I understand it is 6% in a charter, in a home rule charter city, 6% of the registered voters in that city or, 15% in the first class cities and other communities. I would move for the adoption of this amendment so that these people could have this opportunity if they are against the action of the city council and Mayor.

SPEAKER: Do you want to be recognized at this point SENator Chambers?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I have to speak against this amendment. I hope that the body will pay attention to what is being done here. It allows the city in effect, to issue general obligation bonds without a vote of the people. All the city needs to do any city, including Omaha, and the smallest city in the state, is pass an ordinance saying Gentlemen...general obligation bonds will be issued and this includes the highway allocation funds. They need not get a vote of the people. If enough people don't like it they say let the people have the responsibility to circulate a petition saying that this issue will be put to a vote. But suppose the city has done its home work, and they have a bonding company which is going to do some buying for them or bank. They pass the ordinance today and the bonds are sold. Then a referendum doesn't make any difference anyway because the action to be prevented is already taken care of. This is what I consider to be a subterfuge of the most in-cedious kind. I don't use those words to impune anybody's motives