

April 19, 1979

LB 181

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator George, somebody made reference to a parking fiasco in Lincoln which occurs. I read the Lincoln newspapers about things that relate to Lincoln and they have tried to lease parking spots in that place and it calculated so much revenue but they can't lease these spots, so they have a lot of empty places and they are talking about reducing the amount that they will charge for parking there or other alternatives just to get cars in the place. So if you have an example of this in Lincoln, which Omaha is going to refer to and it is not working in Lincoln, why is there reason to believe that it will work in Omaha?

SENATOR GEORGE: Senator Chambers, I would not really compare the City of Lincoln to the City of Omaha in this particular respect because Lincoln has for many years created quite a lot of downtown parking. There are numerous parking possibilities in downtown Lincoln and they simply do not exist in Omaha. As a result of that we have had a considerable number of shopping districts in outlying districts which were never developed in Lincoln, but Omaha simply has depleted the downtown business activity and if they don't have a possibility now to create some parking possibilities, and these would be parking garages, then the downtown business district might further deteriorate. So the two cities are not on the same stage of development.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then that comparison should not have been made by whoever made it as a basis for supporting this bill.

SENATOR GEORGE: I don't think that the argument was made to really support the bill. It could be that Lincoln has over built.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Brennan just called my attention to the fact that he made the comment so I should have left you alone....

SENATOR GEORGE: Well we were not talking about the quantity, the amount, maybe Lincoln has over built but Omaha certainly needs more parking downtown to attract people to shop and do business downtown.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But one thing, Senator George, if downtown Omaha is dying, what are the cars going to go down there and park for?