

April 24, 1979

LB 120

SPEAKER MARVEL: The next order of business is LB 120.

CLERK: Read LB 120.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we are way, way behind so I would hope that maybe we could set a little bit of an example or precedent on this bill. It is commonly known as the litter bill. It has either got the votes or it doesn't. It is that simple. So first off I would move for the adoption of the amendments. The amendments become the bill. Once the amendments are or are not adopted then I will go into detail and explain them and you can either vote them...I mean vote the bill up or down. The reason that I hope we could process it fairly quickly one way or the other is because I know that all kinds of members in the body have major pieces of legislation coming up. Litter bill is something that we discussed maybe two gillion hours in here over the last four or five years, it has been on the ballot and everything else. So, I say, I get down to the bottom line, either the bill has got it or it doesn't. Now I have just passed out to you a poll done by Joe B. Williams, whom you are all familiar with. It shows that when Nebraska, I'll read the question to you. Last November Nebraska voters rejected the bottle bill. This would have required a deposit on all beverage containers, in your opinion, were voters saying that they didn't want any type of anti-litter bill, or, were they saying they wanted a more comprehensive bill aimed at cleaning up all litter? Of those, 9% said that it was just anti-litter, 82%, 82% of those polled, which supposedly represents the opinion of Nebraskans said that they want a more comprehensive bill than the bottle bill, 9% said no opinion. The entire breakdown is there for you, the age group, location and everything, it is being handed out. This is "the right solution to the problem". Now, to start off with, is it perfect? No. Is anything perfect? It addresses all litter. It tries to emphasize recycling and it tries to have a system built up to get several million dollars available in federal funds to develop pioneer programs in a number of communities. I will state unequivocally, and I have just met again with the man, Mr. Dan Drain, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency who as you may know, had serious reservations about which way to go. He states that he will make this bill work. He will make it succeed, he is in general agreement with it. I urge you to adopt the amendments and then I will go into more detail. I know that some people have motions to kill the bill. I would hope that we could process them one way or the other, up or down, and then get the bill moving. I say this again because we really are running into the last days