

April 30, 1979

LB 356

we had a bill in the committee, Urban Affairs, which was the same subject to allow them to move to \$10,000 without going to a publication and a bid specification. The committee at that time did not see fit to put this on the floor so I think what we are doing now is something the committee heard a year ago and decided that they did not want to accept but right now it is obvious Senator Kelly has the 26 votes. I am still going to oppose the readvancement of the bill to E & R final because I think that the body has committed something here this morning without too much background and I think we have made a mistake so I will oppose the readvancement of 356 to E & R final.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly, do you want to close on your motion?

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, there is some confusion in the minds of some of the members of this body of personal property and capital construction items and what we have talked about other times is capital construction and its various ramifications but that is not the case here. I believe Senator Koch understands that this is personal property and those people that are purchasing agents in political subdivisions, if they want to buy golf carts one at a time as it is being suggested that they might do, certainly they would not be a purchasing agent in any city that I can think of very long. The problem that we have is strictly one of the ravages of inflation. Did anybody notice that the median income now is \$18,580, thereabouts? Just imagine in these few short years what has gone on. This \$10,000 versus the \$5,000 allows the political subdivisions, the cities, to buy exactly the same items that they were buying five, six years ago and that is all that it does. It doesn't open any holes and it doesn't allow anybody to become wealthy crooks. It is just merely a matter of trying to help the city through legislation and normal business procedures where they are going to need competition and bids and advertising and engineering estimates. They will get them and this will require it as it does now but in effect, what we are doing, the \$5,000 as far as items being purchased is \$2,500 so now we are having to advertise for an item that the city used to just buy. We are having to hire an engineer and ask him to give an engineer's estimate of the cost of these items that previously we were just buying. It causes us to take out legals and advertise in the paper for competition for these items that previously we were just buying. This amendment is strictly an inflationary catch up amendment so