

May 9, 1979

LB 356

purchase a city can make without bid from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and I want to make sure everybody understands it. I am offering the kill motion on behalf of myself and the Nebraska Press Association. They have constantly opposed this piece of legislation. They are on record for it and Senator Kelly cleverly slipped in this particular amendment on the bill. I thought he was one seat back for a while. That is what Carpenter used to do. It must have rubbed off a little bit. Took a simple noncontroversial bill and made it highly controversial. I ask you to bring the bill back and kill it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, I would say two or three things in connection with this motion. First of all, the agenda would list my motion ahead of Senator Lewis'. Also the rules will state that motion to strike the enacting clause does not take precedent over a motion to amend. Be that as it may. The amendment that I have on the agenda would strike the difference between the present \$5,000 mandatory limit on advertising and legals, for purchases, or hiring engineers, for engineer estimates on purchases, or for public bidding on purchases. The point being here, if you will look at the handout I have just sent to you, it was distributed by the pages, you will see the ravages of inflation at whichever rate of inflation you want to take. I've given you 6%, 7 or 8 and from 1971 to 1981 what we were doing at the time we last changed this limit to \$5,000. Next year we will take \$9,500 if a 6% inflation is it. It would be \$10,500 if 7% has been the rate. If 8% has been the rate it would be \$11,600. I also submit to this body that the metropolitan City of Omaha under its home rule charter, its wisdom says \$7,500 is the correct position. The City of Lincoln under its home rule charter, its wisdom, sets the amount at \$10,000 which is where the bill is now. The point being there is a real serious problem in the area of bidding, collecting engineering estimates and for legal advertising as it affects the operation of our first class cities throughout this state. The amendment that I had on the bill and that I offer an amendment to when my turn comes is to recognize the efficient operation, a procurement of equipment and supplies in our cities so that we can at least, at the very least, stay where we were seven, eight years ago which this is not the case now. The cities are being required by state law to go through paper work and paper work shuffles and higher advertising in the legals of local newspapers for items that several years ago were never