

SENATOR KEYES: Very short and very sweet. Let's not put any more taxes on the people in Nebraska. I don't care if they put a tax of thirty cents...percent on the room tax in Colorado and Wyoming and South Dakota and Kansas. I really don't care. The people that travel there can pay it, but when it comes to the traveling salesman, the people that travel across Nebraska and make their living have to stay out overnight, I don't want to put another tax on them and increase the taxes. If we were out of money it would be a different thing, but we are not out of money. If the City of Omaha is out of money, they had better revamp, and Douglas County, they had better revamp their budget, that's all. Just take one look at it and find out why. Why does the State of Nebraska have a surplus and the City of Omaha and Douglas County, why are they short. They have as much sales tax about as we do. So let's just not put any more tax on the people. Let's just let it ride one year without increasing the taxes.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Powers.

SENATOR POWERS: Mr. President and fellow members, I feel good this morning in that after being here just a short time I think I am beginning to be able to decipher the obstacle course on this particular bill. I have been following it and the last hour and a half I think I have grown. I think I have learned. I think we are at the point where we are talking about a tax on tourism that the intention of it is to benefit the state in that we will attract more tourists. Now I hope that I am correct on that, and if I am correct on that, I would like to go on record against this amendment because I believe the monies raised should be spent by people who know what they are doing, by people who know how to attract people to this state. In the morning Lincoln Star there is a big article about the Germans. The Germans are great western fans and evidently they are planning on having a bunch of Germans come here next year in Nebraska and go across the state in covered wagons and so on. I don't think that tears up the highways too much. I think that the Germans might bring a lot of money here. I don't...and I think that probably this didn't happen accidentally. Somebody in Germany is telling the Germans... there is fifteen hundred groups there, telling them all about Nebraska, what a great state it is, how it is the Old West, and so on, and they are going to come here. Now somebody had to tell them about that. Somebody has to go and somebody has to attend national conventions and encourage people to plan their convention next year or the year after in Nebraska. I believe the money, this tax, should be spent