

January 28, 1980

LB 499

SENATOR DWORAK: And how many of those five people will be representatives with your amendment of the motel industry?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Two.

SENATOR DWORAK: And how many without your amendmnet?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Without the amendment, it is...hold on a second. It is three from the lodging industry and two from the Chamber of Commerce.

SENATOR DWORAK: And under your amendment, it will be...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Two from lodging and three from the public at large.

SENATOR DWORAK: And not necessarily Chamber of Commerce.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Not necessarily Chamber of Commerce.

SENATOR DWORAK: I support this amendment. I think we are using public dollars and I think that to put a board to control public dollars solely with one special interest is a dangerous precedent and I cannot be assured that the public at large will be represented by just having special interest people making decisions as to these public dollars. Now I oppose the money going locally at all, but if it is going locally, for gosh sakes, let's at least get a representative group of local people to be able to control the expenditure of these dollars.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President and members of the body, I have been around this issue of lodging tax quite awhile. All of us have in here except those new members that have just been appointed to come into the body and I tried to move the question this morning on several occasions because this is old hat. It appears to me what we are trying to do now is we are trying to offer amendments to impede the progress of a piece of legislation which indeed has merit to every citizen of this state. We all know that tourism is an attractive industry and this state in some cases suffers for a lack of leadership and ineptness on the part of the Legislature primarily. You can talk about the lodging industry as a special interest if you want to. It is not. It is a part of the total economy of the State of Nebraska. You can talk about those who will benefit and those who will be injured. The poor people will not be injured