

February 27, 1980

LB 276

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we proceed with this, it is my privilege to introduce from Senator Kennedy's District, Norfolk, Nebraska, 66 students from Northeast Technical Community College and the Political Science Instructor is Roger Shaffer. Will you hold up your hands so we can see where you are and welcome you to the Unicameral. The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp on the committee amendments.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, a few preliminary things, the issue of usury rates has been surrounded by controversy in recent months. You may recall that I and some others suggested that the issue might have been better dealt with separately last fall, and that if we didn't act, we would have economic hardship and problems. I think I can state with complete honesty, yes, oh well, it has been a morning like that, I assure you. I think I can state with complete honesty that this state is in a crisis situation with respect to financing, loans, agriculture, the whole works. One of the biggest problems, of course, is the usury rates we have in effect now. Before getting into the amendment itself, just a little more preliminary information. I have received numerous phone calls from bankers and other people in the state, car dealers, you name it, making accusations that I was holding up the usury bill or I was doing this or they were going out of business unless they had some relief immediately. I want to assure the bankers and everybody else that I have not held up anything. Not only that, but the Banking Committee finished all committee hearings ahead of every other committee and put out their bills as quick or quicker than any committee. LB 899, the original usury bill, was not able to be moved because it was so weighty. In other words, it involved a couple of hundred bills of previous years rewriting all laws with respect to usury for all lending institutions and even the private sector of the state. One of the big stumbling blocks, as you may have read in the papers and heard, had to do with credit cards. Because I felt the issue was so critical that delay couldn't be had over one or two issues, I split the bill up. I took three bills in committee that were not being used for any other purpose and I broke the major portions of the usury bill into these three bills. LB 276 is the most critical portion of this. Now I have been accused of railroading that bill out of committee. There is a lot of truth to that. The reason is I believe it is a crisis situation and so I am going to tell you in advance right now what I am going to do with respect to

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