

March 10, 1980

LB 666

I think it might make this bill worth something yet.
Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers. We are speaking to the Schmit amendment to LB 666.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and fellow members, I rise in support of Senator Schmit's amendment. I think a couple of points need to be made. First of all, these dollars are not going to be lost to the State of Nebraska because we are not taxing them so far, yet. This is a new ruling, a new tax is being imposed and an unfair tax. Another point that I think needs to be made is that if, in fact, we are going to tell the elevators of the State of Nebraska that we are going to charge these tax dollars for the sales tax or the use tax on these cars that they are being forced to buy because the railroads are not providing the cars, then the farmer is going to be having to pay that tax on grain that is shipped by rail. What is going to happen in many sections of the state, instead of the grain being shipped by rail it is going to be shipped by trucks. Now we have also got a lot of people in this body and across the state that are concerned about the ability of the state to generate the funds to keep their highways constructed. So if we do not accept this amendment, if we do not exempt these rail cars from this tax then our highways are going to be carrying more trucks with more grain and we are going to have to figure out how to build more...or keep the highways in better repair. We are going to have to generate the dollars from another source. For the railroads to not provide the cars to start with is bad enough, but for the State of Nebraska to penalize the elevators that are having to buy the cars, or lease the cars to provide the service that the railroads are failing to do is simply unheard of. I would urge the body's adoption of Senator Schmit's amendment.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, I arise to oppose the Schmit amendment. Senator Schmit has a bill on the floor, 795, which is going to do the same thing, and the idea here of speeding up the process seems to be a real distortion of the process. You see, what is being done here is simply this. Senator Schmit is most anxious to move his legislation through. The bill is probably going to pass any way, but he is not going to bring

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