

March 10, 1980

LB 276

house, a \$45,000 house, a \$30,000 house because he is not going to be able to get the money. This amendment is precluding the little guy from the real estate market and I urge you, Senator Newell, to look at that. It sounds good. Philosophically it sounds good but what you are doing is you are taking the little guy out of the mortgage market completely. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, I call for the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? The motion will be to cease debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Shall debate cease is the issue before the House. Have you all voted?

CLERK: 25 ayes, 5 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate has ceased. The Chair recognizes Senator Newell to close on his amendment to LB 276.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, this amendment is not intended to do anything other than put some reasonable ceiling and to allow the usury rate to have, in fact, some meaning in the State of Nebraska. Now we have heard many people oppose this proposal and they have been very honest and very philosophical. There ought not be any usury rate. The marketplace will take care of everything. It makes no difference what you do. The Legislature can't protect anybody. Hold your hands up and say you know, if someone has to be sacrificed let them be sacrificed on the altar of free enterprise, on competition, on the altar of, you know, it is going to get harder, it is going to get tougher and you are just going to have to pay the cost, on the altar of you know, there is no use trying to stop inflation. What we need to do is to develop some mechanisms where we can keep up and if everybody can't keep up that is too bad for them. All we are concerned about is us. That is what the philosophy is and that is the philosophy I am rejecting. I think it is very clear. I don't think it is all that difficult. In fact, I think it is ever so succinct. We are striking what is left of the usury rate which is at \$100,000. Corporations are exempt, you know, the same farmers and so forth who are exempted today because they are corporations, the ones that we have heard all these speeches about. They are exempted because they have small corporations. They are exempted. They go out and negotiate whatever they can get but the situation is simply this. For the average person who may or may not need to borrow money we are going to say,