

April 9, 1980

LB 627

I can understand due to the lateness of the hour that the senators wish to go home, but I think it is unfortunate that the motion was made so hastily because this is not a minor amendment. This is an important one. There are a number of senators who wish to talk. There are a number of senators who have concerns about this particular issue. Let me tell you what this amendment does again, because I think perhaps in the lateness of the hour it has been overlooked. We did, many of us in our actions in the haste, and, Senator Lewis, while your speech was just about up to your usual ability, I didn't sense that it really dealt with the particular issue at hand, but I commend you for it as you always give a fine speech, did not deal with the problems that MAT is facing in Omaha. When we passed that bill in the Special Session we did not allow for that particular unique political subdivision. They cannot cast a vote. They cannot cast a vote to get out of the wood. So what you have done is you have said, we support energy conservation, we support mass transit, but no, you can't have more buses in Omaha. That is what we have said. Now you can't put the cake out and then when the person....it's like Senator Lewis said about Lucy and the football all the time. It's the same darn thing, the same darn thing. This would exempt Metropolitan Area Transit. There are a couple of senators who wish to talk on the issue and I would yield the remaining time doling out small portions. One minute, Senator Keyes, because Senator Kahle wants to talk also.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, ladies and gentlemen, fellow senators, if I only have one minute I'm going to talk very fast. Senator Lewis is wrong and I am sorry to say that. MAT operates in Washington County. It operates in Sarpy County. It operates in Douglas County and it also operates in Council Bluffs. There is no way under the sun that you can set a limit on the spending or on the spending or on the needs of the district that includes Iowa, that includes Sarpy County, that includes Washington County, and that includes Douglas County. So MAT has to be out from under the lid. It has to be. There is no other way about it. What Senator Hefner is trying to do I will not support. Thank you ever so much.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon, you have one minute left.

SENATOR SIMON: I yield to Senator Kahle.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Thank you, Senator Simon. Mr. Speaker and