

April 8, 1981

LB 40

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, I would call the question. A call for the question.

PRESIDENT: Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor of debate ceasing vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? The question is, shall debate cease? Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 7 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases and, Senator Hoagland, you may close on your amendment to the Decamp amendment.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I just want to make a few remarks in closing. First of all I want to incorporate wholeheartedly Senator Vard Johnson and Senator Landis' remarks. I think they stated my concerns better than I did. It is really time to fish or cut bait on the Omaha sales tax. Now, you know, I am just...I am not on the Revenue Committee and I don't deal with these elaborate bills like 284 and LB 40. I am just a simple-minded urban lawyer that works on water and appropriations last year and I am not privy to all these different considerations that are being made. But in the three years I have been here I have really seen enough about the way the Omaha sales tax bill has been whipsawed that I am just very, very upset, and I think it is unfair to treat legislation that way. I think it is unfair to treat measures that are important to one sector of...or one geographical area of the state hostage for other things elsewhere in the state. Now this is at least the third session that Omaha has been whipsawed on this issue. This Legislature twice before has said it is all right for the Omaha City Council to have the authority to levy an additional half cent sales tax. The city has been down here session after session and made a case for it, and the Legislature twice has agreed with that case and in previous sessions has said, you ought to have the authority to levy the half cent sales tax. Now in addition to that, the people of the City of Omaha in a poll and in an election in May of 1980, and I have once again distributed those results, have substantially approved the percentage in the range of 68 to 70 percent of those people voting on the issue at the polls in May of 1980, have said they want an extension of the Omaha city sales tax. The city leaders in Omaha, the Chamber of Commerce, the newspapers, you know, virtually anybody that has taken a hard, cold look at this issue is in favor of giving the Omaha City Council, the elected representatives in the City of Omaha the authority to do this if they want. I think it really is time to fish or