

April 8, 1981

LB 40, 105, 512, 547

cut bait. Now I would remind my colleagues from cities like Lincoln and Grand Island and North Platte and Hastings and Kearney and Fremont that as the Omaha city sales tax issue is used to whipsaw Omaha on issues like the distribution of the \$70 million in personal property tax exemption fund, why those cities are being hurt also, because those cities suffer proportionately like Omaha does when unfair distribution systems are set up by the Legislature. So it really doesn't help the taxpayers in those areas either to keep bringing this issue back session after session after session. Now, finally, let me bring to your attention an editorial that was in the Lincoln Journal on April 5th, and here is what the editorial writer states in the conclusion. He says, "One way or the other, however, this polka should end. Either the special taxing authority should be scratched or the Legislature should acknowledge that it has been permanently snookered and get on with it." Now one way or the other I would like to test this body and see whether or not there is not the sentiment for a substantial and lengthy extension of the Omaha sales tax because, frankly, as Senator Johnson has indicated and as Senator Landis has indicated, I am really tired of our getting whipsawed year after year after year. Now let's be fair to the City of Omaha. Let's vote it up or vote it down on the merits and not for other reasons. I urge you to adopt this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The question is the Hoagland amendment to the DeCamp amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 11 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President, on Senator Hoagland's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails.

CLERK: Mr. President, if I may, right before the ceremony... yes, could I...

PRESIDENT: Go ahead, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Howard Peterson would like to print amendments to LB 512. Your Committee on Ag and Environment whose Chairman is Senator Schmit reports LB 547 to General File with amendments and LB 105 as indefinitely postponed, both signed by Senator Schmit. (See page 1355 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Sergeant at Arms, Ray Wilson.