

March 16, 1982

LB 591, 816A

SENATOR CLARK: The bill is advanced. We now go to the new sheet that you have. There is no time limits on these. It is on the new sheet you have. These are senators priority bills. You cannot remove these bills. Also there is no time limit on them. We go to LB 591.

CLERK: Mr. President, if I may right before we get to that, a new A bill, LB 816A offered by the Revenue Committee. (Read. See page 1199 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, LB 591 was a bill introduced by Senator Landis. (Read.) The bill was read on January 6th, referred to the Revenue Committee. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. At this time I have no amendments to the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I was reading Will Durant last night, a book on the history of Greece. He was talking about a society called the Locrians. The Locrians believed that their laws were ordained by the gods and that if man made an attempt to change them that there should be heavy burden on anybody who couldn't persuade the rest of the group to go along with it. So they had a rule that a person who proposed a change of their laws would have to do so with a noose around their necks and in the event the measure was unsuccessful they took them out and hanged them. A proposition that I have had several constituents tell me probably should...(interruption.)

SENATOR CLARK: Do you want to put that in the rules?

SENATOR LANDIS: I'm not going to suggest it as a rule change but I suppose somebody might say to themselves, why would somebody in an election year bring a bill that raises taxes? Well, that's right. I don't see how I could not have opposition then and carry this bill. But, in fact, this bill does not raise taxes. It allows the City of Lincoln self-determination in its fiscal future by authorizing the City of Lincoln to raise a half cent sales tax premised on a vote of the people of the City of Lincoln in the event that they choose to tax themselves in that manner. I believe in that self-determination and that is why I am sponsoring LB 591 which was reported out by the Revenue Committee. And the City of Lincoln is well known for its planning and its fiscal management. It has the highest bond rating possible for a community. Its management is the envy of many other cities and I'm not here to tell you today that the city is in financial shambles or anything of the like. What I am telling you is that that level of planning