

May 3, 1985

LB 715

SPEAKER NICHOL: The Conway amendment is adopted. Anything further on it?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Higgins would move to amend the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President, and I apologize for keeping the body waiting.

SPEAKER NICHOL: You are forgiven.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you. As you know, I just now arrived. The Pages should be handing out this amendment, if you have not received it, to 715. It is on page 38, line 26. You merely strike "and" and the semicolon, and after "farming", insert "or by any hospital." The committee amendments as they currently stand exempt all purchases by hospitals which are organized as not for profit entities. This amendment seeks only to exempt only utility purchases for one hospital and that is St. Joseph's Hospital in Omaha, and the reason for my doing this is because St. Joseph's Hospital provides \$4 million a year for care to the indigent. Now they will still be paying the sales tax on every purchase they make, on bed linens, on dishes, on glasses, everything that it takes to run a hospital. The only thing that I am asking is for exemption merely on the sales tax on utilities. Their utilities bill runs about \$1 million and this would amount to about \$33,000 to the state if granted this exemption. I would urge your support of the adoption of this amendment so that St. Joseph's Hospital who is already, as I say, freely giving \$4 million of care to the indigent, I would really appreciate it and I know St. Joe Hospital would appreciate it. As it stands now, they have to pay that tax and they will still be paying the sales tax on everything else that they purchase. I would ask for the advancement of the amendment unless there is any questions.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Marsh, please.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some inquiries to make of Senator Higgins. Senator Higgins, does your amendment...did I understand you to say that this applies only to St. Joseph Hospital or would this apply to