

February 10, 1986 LB 1012

is a parochial piece of legislation, applies only to the City of Omaha. We indulge the patience of the Legislature to help us in this hour of our need and problem. There are a lot of us in Omaha who have constituents who must and have to use a public transit system. There have always been arguments about how much a person should be able to pay to ride that public transit system. It has already been established there is, because of the public need, a community responsibility, and, therefore, there is a levy now in existence that helps provide and supplement the cost of operating a transit system. We think in Omaha we have a very good transit system. We hope to keep it that way. We also hope to keep the rates and the cost of riding that system at a level where people who need it, those who don't have cars, kids who ride it to school, and others can continue to afford to use it. Recently Gramm-Rudman raised its ugly head, or good head, depending on your point of view, politically, and as a result of that caused some concerns. What this bill would do is help provide a tool for the transit system if, and only if, it needs it, to raise the levy, the public levy for tax, from 7 cents to 10 cents a 100, only if it would be needed. The reason for it is obvious and simple. The budget year of the city, the budget year of the transit authority, when Gramm-Rudman would come into effect, whether or not those portions of Gramm-Rudman that are now considered unconstitutional will apply or not, there are those people that feel, as it regards Gramm-Rudman, that it was inevitable that it would be declared unconstitutional. But it was in the legislation to draw attention to the problem of a balanced budget. So I'm confident that the Congress will legislatively do what they must do in legislation rather than in the bill itself. So, therefore, we would ask your indulgence and help for the people in our community to allow this bill to pass. Hopefully, it won't be needed. It will be sunsetted in '88 and appropriately so, in '89 actually, once it's determined the effect of the budget cuts on public transportation. That is really about it, unless there is anything that other supporters of this legislation might like to add. If there isn't, I would ask for your support of this legislation.

SENATOR GOLL: Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I stand in support of LB 1012 for many reasons, mostly because the MAT system in Omaha is very important to