

February 15, 1971

SENATOR PROUD: Mr. President, Members of the Legislature. If Omaha annexes Millard, the tax burden on every Omaha taxpayer will be increased. Why is this? It is because Millard has a bonded indebtedness that Omaha has to assume. The indebtedness consists of outstanding general obligations bonds which upon annexation would become the obligation of Omaha taxpayers. Now, when Omaha issued general obligation bonds, the people vote. These same people under present law are not permitted to vote when an annexation occurs. It is conservatively estimated by Omaha's own finance director that the annexation of Millard will increase the mill levy on Omaha by  $\frac{1}{2}$  mill. Now, why did LB159 fail? It failed in Committee several reasons, one of the principal reasons was that the people of Omaha and this Legislature has not been told the tax facts. The Press has not highlighted to the taxpayers how much the bonded indebtedness of Omaha is or what the bonded indebtedness of Millard is. They have not told the people how the annexation of Millard nor the failure to annex Millard would affect the tax load on both Millard and Omaha residents. I introduced LB159, so why don't I tell the people these tax facts. I have tried to do this, but I cannot write everybody in Millard and Omaha, because I do not have the funds to do this. The cost of postage alone would be prohibitive to me. Why doesn't the Press tell the people, that if Millard is annexed Omaha taxpayers will have to furnish Millard citizens with a paid Fire Department. That alone will increase the Omaha mill levy. Now, I plead, beg and challenge The Omaha World Herald to put these tax facts before the people on Page 1. I don't care whether they mention my name or not. I don't expect the Omaha World Herald to accept the challenge, because it is quite obvious that some people in powerful positions desire to keep the citizens in Omaha in darkness. Because of this curtain of silence, I doubt that I can raise LB159 from the Committee to General File. Therefore, I am withdrawing and do hereby withdraw my motion and will concentrate on LB868, in the probably vain hope that through the power of the press, the tax facts will come out before LB868 is heard. In short, I am withdrawing my motion on LB159.

PRESIDENT: Motion is withdrawn. Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER. Ask Senator Proud a question? On 868, why don't you refer it to the same Committee that heard it the first time?

SENATOR PROUD: I don't want it referred to that Committee, because the Executive Board has referred it to the Public Works Committee and secondly and most importantly, I do not feel that I have any change whatsoever in the Urban Affairs Committee of having that bill heard on its merits. Its just that simple.

SENATOR MORGAN: May I ask what the difference is between 159 and 868.

SENATOR PROUD: You certainly may. LB159 provided that before one City could annex another one, I want to say on that score a 1st class City can't annex a 2nd class City, or a 2nd class a Village, only a metropolitan city can annex another city by vote of the people, but LB159 provided that all the people would vote in both cities. You take all the votes and count them you had to have a majority of the registered voters to accomplish the annexation. (End of Belt #8)