

that Senator Ashford is doing something for political reasons, because he was bringing this before he was running for Congress, but there are political implications, ramifications in this, and I will have more to say about that when I get another chance to speak.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, your light is the next one on to speak on the Wickersham amendment.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I have opposed allowing cities to levy a sales tax from the beginning. Senator Momen, that was when you were a youngster, probably in short pants and tennis shoes that didn't even have brand names on them, to show how long ago it was. I opposed them from the beginning. I opposed the city sales tax when former Mayor Leahy wanted the first one and I wasn't even in the Legislature, and I wrote a paper called "Liar Leahy", because at the very beginning Omaha said it is a temporary tax. Then they wanted to make it permanent. They have always done that. They are totally irresponsible. They are totally untrustworthy, so I guess there is kind of a tradition of people who hail from Omaha saying one thing when they mean something else, indicating that they are telling the truth, but they've got something in the back part of their brain that they haven't told the rest of us, and then they spring it on us after we've swallowed the come-on or the bait. This amendment should not be before us at all, and though I think it has no chance for accept...of passage or adoption, I am going to mention what would happen if you decided, for some crazy reason, to just give Omaha what they are asking for. They would be down here next year to make it permanent. Their track record shows us that. The pattern has been consistent throughout. They will say, give it to us temporarily; then next year they say, well, things came up, we rely on it, we cannot let it go, and we are asking that you let us keep it. Then all kind of deals will be struck, all kind of promises will be made, and the Legislature will expect to have been snookered again. What Senator Wickersham is offering, if I understand his amendment correctly, and, Senator Wickersham, let me ask you, is it to take away the taxing power of all of the cities when it comes to levying a sales tax, and repose that in the state alone? Thank you. He said that is correct. Now I would agree to that, even though I don't like the sales tax, but then we are dealing with one taxing power that is going to deal with the sales tax. And my battles and the battle of the rest