

even bother, because the individual hasn't even registered as a lobbyist. He is in violation of the laws of the State of Nebraska, and he is subject up to a thousand dollar fine. I just checked with the Clerk's Office to see if Mr. Pfeffer, who writes letters to me, but then doesn't send them, gives them to the newspaper, and doesn't send copies to Senator Ashford either, as he had portrayed, was registered as a lobbyist. Thirty-five bucks, you know the laws, under the accountability provisions, he is subject to civil fines and penalties. Didn't bother to register as a lobbyist. He has been down here for approximately three weeks, maybe more, on and off. Senator Chambers mentioned in his speech that he had lobbied him. Senator Will said that he has lobbied him. I know others have talked to him. He talked to me once, but be that as it may, the provision in front of us is Senator Ashford's sales tax amendment. And I applaud Senator Ashford for what he is attempting to do. I disagree with him, but I think he has taken this issue and tried to bring it before the body. I cosponsored it and felt last year that it was something that needed to be done because of the vote that was taken by the people in the City of Omaha, but I really believe that the issue here, as it relates to development of a convention center in downtown Omaha, is one of leadership, and it is one of leadership in terms of the Mayor's Office. What has happened to the civic auditorium? It has fallen into disrepair. It is a mess. It is a bunker. It is a 50-year-old hooker that we are going to try to put face paint on, we are going to try to get a little new lighting, we are going to try to put a new dress on it, maybe fix some of the plumbing, and then we are going to try to pass it off as an 18-year-old virgin. Doesn't work, won't happen. Ladies and gentlemen, what you have is a building that has seen its useful life. To put \$16 million into that bunker would, in essence, be throwing \$16 million of tax policy out the window because what you will have is a 50-year-old building. That is what you will have. You will still have a 50-year-old building. You will have wasted \$16 million on it, and what the City of Omaha needs, what the State of Nebraska needs is a convention center. We don't have that. That's where the leadership factor comes in, and Senator Ashford has tried to get that. He has been on the forefront of moving in that direction with the Nebraskaplex, a study that took place that was given authority by this body, by the Executive Board of this body to be dealt with. That's where we need to be moving. That's where the City of Omaha, the state, as a partner in that construction, the county government, and the taxpayers, with the general tax base that is already out