

more severe problem for state government and the balancing of a budget a year from now, and for the next biennium. I would urge that the body rejects the further expansion. I did not object, and have sponsored legislation, where we through the appropriations side give money to local governments because then you retain some control over that. But once you give the tax base itself away, you are never going to get it back. It just simply cannot be done. And I would hope that we would look at the long-term state financial situation, and long term is pretty short, it is only a couple of years, because we will be in the position next time of having access, at least, to this possibility and sales tax is going to...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ...become the most likely thing, Senator Robinson, I think you mentioned that yesterday, but it is going to become the most likely thing, not because it may or may not be the best tax but it is the one that will develop cash flow the most quick...the soonest and the quickest, and the other options will not do it quickly enough in the event that we are in the situation that I suspect we will be. So I'd urge that you reject the Ashford amendment. I have no quarrel with the need for what Omaha is talking about, but you'd better put your priorities...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ...for funding state programs, not local programs, when it comes to the distribution of state tax sources.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President. I hope that Senator Warner's additional time does not come off of mine. I would rise in support of this motion at this time, and I want to make a couple of points. The first one is that the issue of sharing the tax base, of whether local option tax ought to be out there at all is a legitimate one, and, certainly, I applaud Senator Wickersham for bringing his amendment and having that discussion. I did not talk on that because I wanted to address my remarks to this amendment, but that is a legitimate issue. It is something that is of a concern and I think if you are designing a tax system from scratch, it probably is not the most