

have kept it up fairly neatly. I don't know what their infrastructure was like, but we did also tour our present city convention center, the city auditorium, and that city auditorium is built like a rock, but it does need help. It does need refurbishing. It does need electrical. It does need plumbing. It does need just maybe a new image. I am not sure if we are going to attract bigger conventions because we don't have the hotel space, we don't really have the area even when we refurbish the convention center, but we do want to take care of the conventions that it does attract, and it does attract many, many conventions over the year, and it does need a new image for the City of Omaha. Many of my constituents have shared with me in the town hall meetings, and questionnaires that even though they did not vote originally for the city sales tax for the renovation, they said, how can the Legislature override the majority of the citizens of Omaha? We are willing to go along with the citizens, with the majority of citizens. So I guess that is my bottom line is that the citizens of Omaha voted to support this half-cent sales tax, and, moreover, a majority of my constituents in District 10, and not all of them live in the city, voted for it, and I must go along and urge you to vote to extend the half-cent sales tax to the City of Omaha. It's not the end result, but it is something that we must do to maintain that convention business that we have. And, yes, I think we still should look...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...for that wonderful, glorious, large convention, if we really want to go after those...those big ones, but right now, we have a good clientele and we need to give them a good convention center. If I have any left...I am sorry, Senator Bohlke would like the rest.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Bohlke, you have about thirty seconds.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Madam President, members, it really won't take long to state why I have supported this from the very beginning, for some of the reasons some of the people have brought out about the vote and one year, but, more importantly, I remember growing up and enjoying programs at all of those three facilities. Then after moving to Hastings, our family continues to travel there, and have enjoyed those things. I look at it as a state resource. So although we maybe erode the state base, tax base, I look at these as a state resource. If