

Legislature override the city when the people voted for this sales tax. First of all, they put the horse before the cart. See, if Senator Landis would have been listening, he would have said, well, that is what they are supposed to do, the horse is supposed to be in front of the cart, but people are so used to it being said that they put the cart before the horse, they presume that is what I said. Omaha seldom does things right, Senator Landis, so maybe that is what you were counting on. But the law requires them to get the authorization from the Legislature. They didn't get the authorization from the Legislature. They thought they could compel the Legislature to buckle under to their will, and that is not the way it goes. Under the Constitution, the state, meaning the Legislature has the power to tax. If the state agrees to allow the city to share in that, the city gets a bonus or a favor. The cities are not entitled, under the Constitution, to levy any taxes, so they can vote from now until doomsday, as long as they want to, and whatever they vote does not oblige the Legislature to do anything. The Legislature sets a condition and says if you, as a municipality, will meet this condition, we are going to allow you to do something. That's the only condition under which the city has the authority to levy a tax, so all this whining by Pfeffer, by Mayor Morgan, by people on this floor about, well, the people of Omaha voted; well, so what? Let them vote to redistrict the Legislature. It is an exercise in futility. If they are that silly, let them waste the money, let them mislead the public, but there is nothing in the Constitution which says that the City of Omaha can vote to wrest a power that is given to the Legislature by the Constitution. That is one of the silliest things I have ever heard, and even if they were advised to do it by legislators, they were advised to do that because the Legislature consid...the legislators considered it silly. I just happened to look around here and (laughing) there's nobody here. This reminds me of when they first started filming the Congress. Well, I didn't mean nobody in the sense literally of nobody, there are very few bodies here. I thought my voice had a strange echo to it today but I thought maybe it was something wrong with my hearing. It's echoing because the room is virtually empty. But I would be watching these people in Congress and some of them I had never heard of before, and I was wondering why I hadn't heard of them because they were so forceful in what they were saying...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.