

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** ...and it seemed like everybody in the Chamber must have been spellbound because I heard not a sound, then they panned the Chamber and I mean nobody was there. Senator Schimek, I mean nobody except the one speaking. Well, fortunately, we have (laughter)...we have lobbyists who are interested in this issue and I'm sure they are listening. So all I will say at this point is that despite the fact that the people of Omaha voted, that vote means nothing, it binds the Legislature to do nothing. And the reason I'm not going to try to stop Senator Ashford from getting a vote, I want them to be crushed in the dust by a negative vote, then all those people can stop whining about if they had gotten a vote, the tax would have been allowed.

**PRESIDENT ROBAK:** Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wesely.

**SENATOR WESELY:** Yeah, okay. Madam President and members of the Legislature, as Senator Chambers indicated, we're not talking to a large crowd here but, just for the record, a couple of points I would like to make in opposition to the Ashford amendment. First off, I oppose both this proposal and the Lincoln city sales tax proposal so I'm not...it's not anything to do with Omaha. I would oppose and do oppose the same proposal for my own home town of Lincoln. And it's because, as we've talked about, the sales tax has been dedicated to the state, that for the cities to come to us now and ask for the assistance, it would be no different than if we turned around, and we have, and tried to go to the federal government and say, please bail us out, we're having some financial problems and, of course, they have their problems as well. And what happens is every...every division of government, every level of government always is going to have financial problems. So the solution is always the first place to turn to with somebody else to cover the cost, whether it be the cities coming at the state, the state sometimes turning to the cities and cutting aid, or vice versa, going on up to the federal government. So that's the first thing, that people are trying to find a place to get funding other than their own tax base so that they can have the benefits of the funding without the pain of the taxes. So, again, with all the demands and concerns on the state budget, it seems to me that to preserve the state tax base for those needs and, as we all know the sales tax and income tax are the sources of income that we rely on for the state budget, we've got to be very concerned about that. So that's point number one and I think that's a point that's been made before. Point number two is