

that there are other options, both with Lincoln and with Omaha. With the Omaha situation, I passed out for you information. I checked out that here in Lincoln the Pershing Auditorium is our...our version of civic auditorium and it's about 40 years old, I believe. Anyway, that auditorium has been renovated as well and the way we did it was we had a local vote, and Omaha had a vote too, but we decided to tax ourselves locally and issue bonds and refurbish both in 1982 and 1989 the auditorium. And I have always wondered, and I don't know if anybody has got an answer to it, why Omaha couldn't do the same thing, why they can't simply go forward and they had one vote, why couldn't that vote have been to issue bonds and go forward and take care of the problem. Why is it that they've chosen the sales tax option off of the other option which Lincoln pursued which was using bonding authority of the city? And the reason is they can shift the cost off elsewhere. It looks like it's coming from somewhere else. Just as I said, that's what I think is really going on here. So there...this isn't the only option to deal with the problem. There are other choices and, in my view, better choices that are all local decision-making to deal with the problem. Again, on the Lincoln situation, it seems to me there we're looking for additional funding for roads and it would...the first line of attack should be where is the current roads money going? Are we using it as efficiently and effectively as possible? And can we direct and redirect monies to get the biggest bang for the buck in terms of that budget? That seems to be where we need to be talking, and I have introduced a study resolution to that effect. So, in both cases, it appears to me that taking the step that is being proposed should come after a series of decisions that find that there are other alternatives that are not preferable and that's the better course of action. So this is not anti-Omaha; this is not anti-Lincoln. This is simply a philosophical, practical policy decision that seems to say to me that there are other choices, in my view, better choices and that those ought to be the ways that we pursue dealing with the problem. And I also want to follow up, some people have talked about Omahans voted for this, that they deserve it and what's the Legislature doing intervening.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: Again, the proper course of action would have been to come to us asking for authorization and then going back and asking for a vote of the people. That's actually what