

policy, but, in effect, to pass on whether or not we think this is a good thing for the City of Omaha, and then there are those who would suggest to you that not only is this a good thing for the City of Omaha, but this is a good thing for the State of Nebraska. So for a moment, I want to discuss that question. Is it a good thing for the City of Omaha, leaving aside the question of whether it is good for the State of Nebraska? I have handed out to you a document that is called a "Report By The Mayor's Advisory Commission On The Need For A Municipal Convention Center." It was prepared for the mayor, P.J. Morgan. It had I think about 20 people on it, including one member of this body. On page 4, in paragraph 3, you will find one sentence that is underlined. It says, "This commission voted unanimously against any plan to repair, remodel or expand the Omaha Civic Auditorium." Now you can read through the report and perhaps you will get some idea of why that commission, I believe there were 20 people on it, voted unanimously to recommend to the Governor, or to the mayor, I am sorry, that the Omaha Civic Auditorium not be repaired, not be remodeled, and not be expanded. Maybe something has changed since then, but that was the mayor's own commission. Earlier than that, there was a study by Coopers and Lybrand, that was in 1987. Following that, there was also a Nebraskaplex story or study that I think Senator Ashford is familiar with. None of those studies, to my knowledge, recommended doing very much of anything with the civic auditorium. In fact, one of them,...

SENATOR MOORE: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...the Nebraskaplex study clearly indicates that the arena is simply a facility for the benefit of Omaha and perhaps the surrounding area. It is not a facility with statewide implications. The other document that I passed around is a sheet showing what I think are some of the options for Omaha about how to fund this facility. It shows you the effect that funding the facility with property taxes would have, either as a straight proposition, funding it over a three-year period, or option number two is bonding it out over five and ten year periods, and you can calculate out those costs. If you want to behave like a city council, I think you ought to take those items into consideration. Should we raise property taxes? Should we bond it? Should we try to raise sales taxes? Exactly how should we fund this facility and should we do it at all? Other people are telling us we shouldn't do it at all.