

together. They don't fit well for the kinds of...the kinds of programming that they currently have undertaken. They don't work well in terms of a cohesive unit for purposes of just the World of Wheels that was down there this past weekend. We had probably I would guess somewhere in the neighborhood of ten to thirty thousand people that went through there in the last few days, last couple of weeks, on the two weekends where probably in excess of that, where we had the Home Show and then the World of Wheels that was down there this past weekend. People go to the facility because it is the only place there is to hold these kinds of programs, but we are finding it more and more difficult...

SENATOR MOORE: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...to attract those kinds of programs because we don't have the kind of facility that they want to see and that will attract the kinds of crowds that we need to have. We are basically...we have treated this proposal in the state and in Omaha the same way we treated gambling. We are ten years behind the curve. We should have been on board 10 years ago, 15 years ago, dealing with the issue of building a convention center in Omaha. The fact that we are now at this point I think is kind of a watershed position for us. We have to just bite the bullet and say, no, what we need to do is go forward and move toward a construction of a new convention center. You can never bring the civic auditorium back to make it something that it cannot be. That doesn't mean I want to take Charlie Mancuso's name off of it. I would like to put his name on the head of it. I used to work for him at the...

SENATOR MOORE: Time, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: ...Rosenblatt Stadium.

SENATOR MOORE: Our next speaker is Senator Schellpeper, followed by Senators Chambers, Jones, Ashford, and Pedersen.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I rise to support the Chambers reconsideration. I think that the sales tax needs to be a funding for state government. I don't know if you other senators have looked at the budget for next year, but we will probably have to raise some type of taxes next session. And there is no place to go for the state except with a sales and income tax. So all of the senators that voted for