

the Omaha sales tax the other day, I take it that you are all going to support a sales tax increase, because that is what you will have to do. So if there were 30 votes there last Friday, there should be 30 votes there if everyone is here, but, of course, some of them won't be back, I realize that, but we need to have those people that will be back to realize that they will have to vote for a tax increase next year, and it should be easy for them because they already have voted for a tax increase. I was not able to be here last Friday afternoon when the vote was taken, but I was very surprised, as everyone else was, by the amount of the margin. You probably also realize that there's a couple of different petitions going around that would basically take off all of our current property tax. And if they get on the ballot and if they are successful, that means we will have to come back and we will have to raise the sales and the income tax. I can't see giving away part of the state tax base if we have to do that, and I know there is a lot of people out in the rural areas that are very upset with their real estate taxes, and it will probably pass, especially in the rural areas. It maybe will pass statewide, I don't know, but I think there is going to be something on the ballot this fall where the individuals will, the voters will have to vote. So I think you need to reconsider this and think about what the sales tax means to the state. As a member of the Revenue Committee, we have gone through a lot of hours of debate about where the funds will come from next year. Maybe we will have to take a look at expanding into more services, especially if these things get on the ballot and pass. Then we will have to expand into more services. But think again about what the vote that happened last Friday, because if you could support that tax, then you can also support a tax increase next year. Thank you.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. The next speaker is Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, if anybody would take a moment to look at this report that Senator Wickersham passed around done by the mayor's commission to study this issue, you will see where they say very strongly that it is a waste of money to try to renovate this thing called the city auditorium if you want to look at it on its merits, and that if during the time that it is being renovated, it can't be used for a convention center, there are other things it cannot be used for, there is not enough territory surrounding the thing to do what is being envisioned. It can never be made into a