

File, we had a sales and income tax base on on a statewide basis for property tax relief and that was on for about 24 hours and we had to take it off because of opposition to raising the sales tax in the state. Now we have a proposal here to raise it in one city for a purpose that they have voted themselves and it suddenly appears to be okay. It's kind of interesting to me. The other thing about that is I would ask if somebody in the state decided to have a citywide vote, wouldn't necessarily be Omaha, to have property tax relief and they decided to raise their sales tax 2 percent. Under what conditions could we reject that? We could say the people voted to do that, they could lower their property taxes very much lower than they are, have sales tax pay for their budget and under the basis of what Senator Ashford is saying, that would be perfectly all right because the people voted for it. It seems to me that the Legislature ought to have more control about what it's going to do with its tax source or tax base across the state. Finally, I'd say I don't know what is practical about financing the auditorium but it would appear to me that a user fee ought to be considered and I'm assuming that it probably is considered and it hasn't...was probably not satisfactory. But it seems to me that those that are using it ought to probably be the ones to pay for it. There's nothing to say that any of us going to Omaha ought to be able to go into those shows at a nominal fee. It ought to be what it costs and that ought to be the source to me and what it would take to improve the auditorium. That's the way we are nearly improving every other source of property is a user fee. Perhaps it would be too high, I'm not sure, but at least it ought to be considered then I think in conjunction with this and as I interpret the proposal, I don't see any of that in there. So I do support the reconsideration.

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator. Senator Schimek, your light is next.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President and members of the body, I'm not really going to change my vote on this issue. I voted no the other day, but I haven't spoken on the issue and I guess for my constituents maybe as much as anybody, I'd like to explain why I voted no and I'm going to do so again tonight. When you're talking about the Omaha sales tax, you're really not talking about just the one city, you're talking about a possible amendment to include Lincoln in this as well so you've got