

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...that the state has. It is the state's tax base and we should be using it to solve our own problems and just one final question I'd like to ask Senator Ashford regarding about how much money...Senator Ashford, could you respond to a question real quick?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Ashford, how much money is it estimated that would be used, would be raised if we were to enact this sales tax for Omaha?

SENATOR ASHFORD: \$19 million.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: About \$19 million. Thank you. I guess I just wanted to get that on the record because I was unsure a little bit myself how much we were talking about. Nineteen, twenty million dollars would go a long way to helping solve some of the problems that we've been talking about these past few weeks. I would encourage you to vote yes on the reconsideration motion and to vote no on the city sales tax for Omaha. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I expect everybody knows my position by now. I spoke about this issue last year when Senator Ashford brought it up and the World-Herald took me to task for my ignorance in not understanding the tax situation in Nebraska and where the money is spent and how much we get back, but I want to tell you I have been one of the people who have stood against the local option sales tax not only for Omaha or Lincoln, but for all the other villages and cities that have taken up the beat to extract money through the local option sales tax for their various purposes. And it's kind of interesting to hear some of the comments particularly Senator Jones and some of those that have talked about how the money has been brought into the various communities from the outside area to take care of the problem that they have with their infrastructure and yet it really doesn't do any good for other areas that are not able to collect it. So what it really boils down to is what I had originally said a long time ago and I was one of the first people who came into the Nebraska Legislature back in the days when they were