

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Debate is ceased. I raise the call. Senator Chambers, would you like to close on your amendment, on your motion?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, this is a very significant vote and I hope that we have enough votes to reconsider. There is an interconnection among a number of bills. Senator Ashford said that I tied them together. Senator Ashford, I did not tie them together, I acknowledged what everybody already knows. But the fact is, there is no legitimate reason to allow this taxing to be done by Omaha. All of the speakers, almost to a person, has pointed out what it takes from the state when each city is allowed to do this and as Senator Schimek emphasized, especially when it is a large city such as Omaha, the state is going to have to raise some revenue. The sales tax is one of the main sources. When time comes to do that, there are some who will be thinking about what the cities have charged and are charging. In the past when Omaha has gotten what they called a temporary sales tax, every single time without exception, without exception, they came back to have it made permanent. This is one of those situations where there is no extremely pressing situation in Omaha to justify this tax. They cannot say they have inadequate money in their budget. They cannot point to anything. They are going for what is a frill and an unwise one at that. They're trying to remodel an old building which the mayor's own commission said is not worthy of renovation. It's not worth the money that would be put into it. So the reason for this sales tax is flawed. The discussion by Senator Will and others about the city's people having voted was somewhat countered by Senator Hall who pointed out that less than half the registered voters even turned out. It was one of those kinds of elections. There has not been an overwhelming upsurge in Omaha to have themselves placed under an additional half cent sales tax. What I really hope is that we will vote to reconsider and, Madam President, since everything has been said that can be said, I'm going to ask for a call of the house and then I'll take a machine vote to begin with.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There has been a request for a call of the house. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to go under call.