

the term "City of the metropolitan class" occurs because in trying to go through the Committee amendments and the others that are attached in the bill book, I may have missed some point where the term was mentioned. So the intent of this bill, this amendment, is to strike all references to "City of the metropolitan class". By so doing, it will make the provisions of this bill apply to every city, every municipality which currently has the power to levy a sales tax. I'm doing it, I'm calling it my polygraph amendment. It is going to make sure or help give additional assurance that this power that you're going to give to Omaha improperly, I think, will self destruct, that's the term which others have been using, on the date which is specified in this monstrosity of a bill as it stands now. There are a lot of cities which would probably like to utilize this authority. There is Senators in the Legislature who don't want to have this additional tax burden imposed on the citizens of their city. The citizens of Omaha feel the same way. You can put forth some effort to influence the officials at the city level, not to impose this unfair tax on the citizens of your city, but at the same time it will be an incentive to help you help the citizens of Omaha to get out from under this burden when the deadline passes as specified in this bill currently. I'm going to say again, a measure to impose a tax is different from any other kind of proposition which the Legislature deals with because it is going directly into the pockets of the citizens. You have adopted earlier a provision wisely offered by Senator Lamb, declaring that any city which did not have a sales tax at the time the bill was enacted which he got through the Legislature, a vote of the people would be necessary to impose that tax. This is a recognition of the seriousness of the taxing authority. It also is some attempt indirectly by the Legislature to build a control into the taxing powers of the cities. I supported that bill verbally and by voting for it. Now this proposition that I'm offering to LB 902 would say that the provisions of this bill would apply to every municipality in the state. It does not say, and I'm going to give you the arguments that they give in Omaha, it doesn't say even that they have to impose the tax. It's up to the City Council. If Omaha City Council is considered responsible enough to review the fiscal situation of the city and determine whether the tax should be imposed, let the City Councils of the municipalities throughout the state have that same prerogative. When we talked about the Sunshine bill and other measures there was much discussion about what was called local control and I don't know exactly how it was justified but nevertheless that term crops up quite often. So let the municipalities throughout the state exercise the same discretion which Omaha is being allowed to exercise or I should say in the case of Omaha, the indiscretion which Omaha is to be authorized to exercise against the people. I don't believe that Omaha has justified the need for this bill and Senator Kremer, based on some things you said yesterday about trusting the officials of Omaha and me stating frankly that I don't trust them, this provision would give an incentive to all members of the Legislature to ensure that that provision, cutting off the power to enact this tax would be acted upon. So my amendment says that the provisions of 902 will apply to every city in the state. I think it is fair. I'm going to say again, since you're here, that Omaha is not directed to enact this tax. No other city is directed to enact it either. We're talking about a grant of discretionary authority and it ought to be granted to all of the cities. The right of the cities to levy a sales tax has already been