

merchants in Nebraska. Therefore, I ask you to support this kill motion on LB 571.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the kill motion. I have handed out to you a copy of a study that was done for me by the Nash Finch Company. When this matter was before the Legislature the other day I called Al Gross, the General Manager, and asked Al if he could put together a study for me for the year 1982. You will notice by the covering letter that his conclusions from the audit are that during the calendar year 1982, Nash Finch Company, the Nebraska division, collected sales tax monies in the amount of \$3,577,396.84 and pursuant to the present law the Nash Finch Company withheld from the Nebraska division the 3% or \$107,321.91. That was on a remittance of \$3,470,074.93. But actually in the following paragraph you will notice the loss to the Nash Finch Company was \$38,602.96. Now how much do you think we can continue to ask these companies to continue to support the State of Nebraska over and above their costs? We talk about the argument on the floor the other day, well there is only 900 companies involved but we forget that the 900 companies are a good deal like Nash Finch. They have 21 retail food stores that are company owned. They have 75 independent stores so when you are talking about one store you are really talking about 106 stores. And so when you talk about the 900 keep in mind that you are talking about a multiplicity of stores and that what we are really doing is saying to people who might come to Nebraska and we have a situation in Grand Island where we'd like to fill the Safeway Store, the old Safeway Store. It's standing empty, has stood empty since Safeway left the state but we're never going to do that if we are going to continue to burden companies like Nash Finch with this kind of an amendment. I just personally feel that we are clear out of line. I would like to see us kill the bill. There is no reason whatsoever for us to feel that just because a company happens to be a corporation that it doesn't also have the costs of anyone else and I just want to say to you that I think it is all wrong. I think the facts show the situation. I sat here on the floor the other day and heard my friend, Senator Landis, start in to talk about the cost studies and I wondered if he ever had any cost accounting in college. I think maybe it is time for us to recognize what cost accounting really is, that it does cost money for us to do every one of these things and every one of them have to share a cost to the business. Whether we like it or not, that cost is there and all we are doing is adding to the cost of business