

PRESIDENT: LB 371 is advanced from General File to Enrollment and Review. The Chair would like to announce on behalf of Senator Vickers that he has a guest under the south balcony this morning, Mrs. Beulah Spunaugle from Curtis, Nebraska who is Senator Vickers constituent, also the mother of one of our Pages, Julie Spunaugle. Welcome to the Legislature, Ma'am. By Speaker's request on behalf of Senator Wesely, we will pass over LB 87 and 252 on General File and go to LB 116.

CLERK: Mr. President, 116 was a bill offered by Senator Landis. (Read title.) The bill was first read on January 11 of this year. It was referred to the Revenue Committee for public hearing, was advanced to General File. There are Revenue Committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson for Revenue Committee amendments to LB 116.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I think that some folk were dumbfounded that a sales tax bill such as LB 116 could come out of the Revenue Committee as easy as this one did. I suppose that one of the reasons why the Lincoln sales tax bill did come out of the Revenue Committee so easily is the fact that the Revenue Committee over the years has heard, has heard a lot of bills that deal with a local sales tax. So we know the arguments and we know the pros and we know the cons and I think the Revenue Committee could fairly quickly conclude that the pros outweighed the cons and advanced LB 116 to the floor. But as we advanced LB 116 to the floor, we attached two amendments which are pretty simple and I will explain them and ask your approval of the amendments. The City of Lincoln wants the authority to submit to the voters the question of whether or not the Lincoln sales tax should be increased by one-half of one percent. Lincoln currently has a sales tax of one percent that piggybacks the state's sales tax of three percent, three and a half percent, I am sorry. So in Lincoln, the sales tax, the aggregate sales tax is four and a half percent today. It wants the authority to go an additional half a cent. That authority would have to be...the voters would have to approve the additional half a cent. Now the committee amendments are the following: The bill as drafted said that the issue was to be submitted to the voters at a primary election, a general election, or a