

SENATOR MILLER: Mr. President and members, this is a very important bill and if you're going to vote not to kill it, you should answer in your mind two things. One is that this is taxation without representation. People from rural areas come in to buy things in the urban areas and they have to pay the tax. They don't get a vote on that. I want to tell you one other thing and that is that if property taxes are too high for the city, I want to tell you who is carrying most of the property tax load in the urban areas and that is the agriculture. In Kearney County, for example, agriculture accounts for 30 percent of the kids with 70 percent of the money to supply education for the students. Seventy percent of the taxes are collected from the rural area, 30 percent of the kids. That's not fair representation. That's not fair taxation. I recognize that the cities have a problem with their property taxes and before you vote not to kill this bill you should answer the question, is that only the problem in the city or do they also have that problem in the rural area? I'm telling you that the problem is multiplied in the rural area and this bill, if it's passed, would only multiply that situation to a higher degree. One other thing I want you to keep in mind before you vote on this issue and that is we have a major tax study coming up. We're going to spend \$350,000 for a major tax study. Before we go too far extending city sales tax, you know how hard it is to take a tax away from a community or an area or an entity, it would be much more prudent management, much more intelligent to allow that tax than it would be able to try and take it away. Don't vote to pass this amendment, vote to kill it until after we've had the tax study. If you don't, we may not be able to do what the tax study recommends and if you don't vote to kill it, you're saying that the property taxes in agriculture are not high in relation to the property taxes in the city and I want to tell you just the opposite is true.

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud, are you here to speak? Senator Abboud. Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body...

PRESIDENT: May we have order in the Chamber, please. Lower your conversation. (Gavel.) Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: ...this is the bill that I supported and, of course, there is an amendment put on to increase the sales tax a half percent to the cities outside that already have a cent sales tax. I wasn't too happy with the amendment, but I'm going