

that has been deteriorating for a...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ..period of time, but at least it's in good enough shape that it can be restored at a lower cost and I think that's why there was so much support for this in Omaha. It has deteriorated to a degree, but it can be upgraded and that's why the cost is reasonable. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, what I'm doing is performing a service for the Legislature. By offering an amendment in the form that I offered it, it opens the floor for the discussion of every aspect of the sales tax, every aspect, because my amendment says you would take away an existing power to tax and, in addition to that, you would repeal an existing tax. That is everything that needs to be discussed and everything can be discussed about a sales tax within the confines of this amendment. Senator Warner, the reason I didn't talk about trying to preserve the state's tax base is because I knew that this amendment had no chance of going anywhere, but if there were a serious chance, I'm glad the comments were made. But if it had a chance of going somewhere, my entire approach would be different in terms of the things that I would talk about because I think it would be possible to prevail upon our colleagues to the point where they would recognize that the programs that we are concerned about funding as a state will not be possible to be done if we allow the cities to take the money that the state needs. We're all going into the same pockets--the state, the county, the city, the school districts, all of these other little taxing subdivisions--but the reason this whole thing is before us is because, as Senator Ashford said, he's dreaming the impossible dream. Considering that, it made me think of the cartoon that I saw in "Dennis the Menace." Dennis's father had come home, and I don't mean Dennis Baack, the Speaker, although it might have applied when he was little, his father came home and his mother, Dennis's mother, grabbed him at the door and she...and little Dennis is sitting in the corner where he usually resides with one of those hurt looks on his face. She said, "He broke the unbreakable, he stained the stainless and he spoke the unspeakable." Can you imagine anything frustrating a person more than that? That's the way Senator Ashford feels this