

Special Session. Now whether it is right or wrong for the City of Omaha to reduce their mill levy two mills, that fact did exist, they did that in a very responsible fashion. It is responsible because instead of using the additional dollars and spending them foolishly they thought that they should provide a property tax benefit to the tax payers. Now surely that is a difficult thing for many other people to understand. But it was that or bank rolling or spending those additional dollars. Those are the actions that they had and I thanked them for at least reducing the mill levy. Politically it may not have been a wise thing but it was an absolute necessary thing to avoid spending those dollars or having them surplused, stashed away. I would like to speak very briefly to Senator Marsh's points. It is amazing that Senator Marsh said that this bill, this bill was wrong that they mayor said that he would never come back and that she does not want to be a party to this. She said you know it makes me feel unclean to support this bill. She says that it makes me feel used to support this bill. That is amazing since Senator Marsh also in her concluding statements also said that she didn't vote for this and she would never vote for this bill. Now I think that she has not been used, quite the contrary. She has sit here as many of the other Lincoln senators have and said, we don't need a half cent city sales tax and because of that we don't understand the problems of other cities that do. Let me tell you the folly of that position. Let me just give you a real quick understanding of how wrong that is and what a big mistake that is. Because in the future if the City of Lincoln does need that additional revenue or if they do need help on certain things what are they going to say to the rest of the members of the Legislature? Well forget about those days when we opposed you. Forget about that, we have a problem now. We were unsympathetic then, but we have a problem now. Pay attention to us now. Worry about our problems now. Let me give you an example, a primary example, of what I think is very, very funny. Well it may not be funny but it is ironic. Some of you may remember three years ago when the county, Douglas County, found itself in fiscal crisis. The then mayor of that very famous city, the City of Omaha, who was running for high public office, you will never guess who that is, that mayor said you know, the City of Omaha has a triple A rating on its bonded indebtedness, isn't it wonderful. The county has a tremendous problem now, financially but the city does not. The county ought to run its affairs sort of like the city. That is what the mayor of this great City of Omaha said. But it wasn't two years later when that mayor left office that the City of Omaha found itself in a financial crisis that it could not otherwise resolve. They are not