

Why not destroy this whole concept of uniformity? Why not provide for a break for one industry who is really very intent upon getting this exemption? Who knows that it is right and just if they can gather the votes to do so, to be exempted from this "uniform bill?" It is not a uniform bill any more. There is some good parts to this bill and there is some bad parts to this bill but I guess if we can so easily easily decide to protect one industry above all the private individuals that there are, to have to pay the increased tax, then I have to agree with my good friend Bill Burrows. Billy Burrows says, "You know, the rich guys always get taken care of and the average guy, they have to pay the taxes and the delinquent taxes, etc., etc., and so why don't we just bring this down. Why accept the 14%, almost uniform provisions for everybody else except for maybe homebuilders?" Why not accept that? Well, I think that he has a point that if we are going to provide for special exemptions for one industry who there is a great deal of sympathy for, the homebuilding industry is having a tough time, there is no question about that, but the City of Omaha is having a tough time too and there is no question about that. Senator DeCamp can vote for push along, prod along the sales tax and at the same time basically destroy the tax base down the road by encouraging and providing additional breaks for SIDs. Not a lot of inconsistency there. Basically you are just taking care of an industry and you are taking care of a city and isn't it Omaha's responsibility, isn't it those people who live inside the city's responsibility to pay for those SIDs? Isn't it our responsibility to provide them with additional breaks that even our own citizens do not get? Isn't it important that we take care of these people when we do not take care of anybody who has special assessments in North Platte or Columbus or Grand Island or any place else? Isn't it important, since it only affects primarily, one industry primarily in Douglas County? Isn't it important to make these kinds of exemptions? Well, Johnny can be inconsistent but I am not going to be because, in fact, I have to live in that city. Johnny sees some political benefits to carrying the sales tax and some political benefits to voting for this exemption but I have to live in that city with all of its problems and its continually weakening tax base. I have to live there and I am probably going to live there a lot longer than some of those people that have moved to the SIDs because I can't afford to make that kind of capital investment right now. I will pay it in the long run.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR NEWELL: So, with that, I would urge this body, since