

wise fishermen from the greater Nebraska area. I think Omaha deserves straight up an answer on the sales tax issue. They came in and they talked at the time about a temporary bandaid, but now we are talking about a permanent prosthetic device for Omaha's financial woes. That's what is really at stake here, and Omaha deserves an answer to that, and we should be prepared to give it to them in the form of LB 40. I think the State of Nebraska deserves the full consideration of the Omaha Senators as well as all other Senators on issues like the Vet College without their hands being tied behind their back and looking at the entire range of that issue, and determining the merits of that issue. It is not only LB 40 that gets tied up because of this but, in fact, other issues do not get to be considered on their merits as well because of their relationship to the Omaha sales tax. The taxpayers of this state deserve to have the distribution of the \$70 million of the personal property relief fund to be distributed on an equitable basis and to have that basis determined in the free play and marketplace of ideas rather against a background of coercion which is inherent with the kind of legislation that is being done with LB 40. I think we all deserve better than this kind of parade and double shuffle that gets done year after year on the Omaha sales tax issue. And I am prepared to live or die on the results of LB 40. I am not a fan of the Omaha sales tax. I have always voted against it. I intend to vote against it again. But if I am in the minority, if it is wise state policy, I am prepared to stand by that policy change and give to Omaha that authority. I think we should make that policy change and live with it. To that end then, I will vote for the Hoagland amendment because it moves off the sunset until 1988 and then I will vote for that amendment onto the bill. If the amendment is not satisfactory, that will work as well because the bill no longer... does not at this point have a sunset provision, and then I am going to be in a position to be able to determine the value of that policy pro or con for a good long period of time as will everyone else. And if there are 25 who are like-minded with me, then Omaha will not have a sales tax. And if there are 35 that are like-minded with John, then Omaha will have a sales tax and I am prepared to have that answer. I think the City of Omaha is prepared for that and deserves, and I think the State of Nebraska is prepared and deserves that kind of responsible legislation from this body.

PRESIDENT: Before we call on the next speaker, the Chair would like to announce a committee to escort the Mother of the Year, the Junior Mother of the Year, the committee when the Sergeant at Arms announces their arrival, which should