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that those subdivisions of government, those officials, those county officials, those city councils, those school boards can operate with the authority that they are given by the vote of the people and let them do their job and not stand here in Lincoln, Nebraska and say, "Hey, don't do that. You don't know what you are doing. We will tell you what to do, and we will make sure that you don't spend too much money out there even if the public out there wants the program." And I don't know how in the world they could get more government at grassroots than if they let those people out there do their job and we sit here and try to finagle and twist and turn and try to protect everybody, we protect nobody. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Higgins, did you wish to speak to this amendment?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I think this whole debate this afternoon is a joke. I don't know why you are introducing any amendments. I don't know why we are speaking to any amendments. First of all, Governor Thone isn't in the rotunda to tell you how to vote yet. I have to laugh when Senator Koch stands up and says, "local control, local control". Koch is the one who introduced the bill this year to lift the school lid bill. Remember, people of Omaha and Nebraska City voted in a lid on schools. Well, that local control doesn't count and all of you that talk about local control and then you turn around and you say, "Why did you put a seven percent lid on in the first place? Because the people were demanding it," you said, and now you stand here and say, "Well, but the governments can't live with it." The City of Omaha came down here this year and said we want a half percent sales tax increase, and for those of you who say local subdivisions, local governments, they are going to watch the budget. They are going to tighten it up. You forget that the same city council that was begging you for a half a percent increase raised their own salaries and the mayor's salary this year and you think they are going to follow some kind of a mandate of the people. This is the place where the people are looking for help because they have been ignored by the cities and the counties and the schools and I think when you talk about local control, it is a joke. Local control is bandied around here just to everybody's own advantage. When it is to your advantage, you scream local control. When it isn't, then it is the Legislature's responsibility. So all I want to say is it is asinine to talk about any amendments. This is a bill that says, "Shall we lift the seven percent lid?" Senator Koch says let's have a referendum of the people. Why not an initiative of the people?

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