

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, I have long opposed city sales tax, period, and especially the half cent that Lincoln is talking about. I ask you this, fellow members of this Legislature, if you were a citizen of Lincoln, Nebraska, how would you vote on this issue? When we had thousands of boys and girls here the last couple of weeks in for the basketball tournaments along with their parents, when we have seventy some thousand of which a great many of them are from outside the City of Lincoln come into the football games and many, many other activities that are connected with either the University or state government, our own situation where we have to live here in Lincoln for a period of time, if I were a citizen of Lincoln I would certainly vote for that half cent sales tax because we'd sure catch a bunch of suckers. There would be no way in the world that you could lose on a deal like this. I oppose the city sales tax, period, but I certainly oppose it for the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, because that is our capital city, that is where our government is, that is where we have to be and where we have to come to do our business. And I think it is absolutely wrong that we should be assessed a half cent extra sales tax because we have to come to Lincoln, Nebraska. The other side of that situation is we heard this in the Revenue Committee and the City of Lincoln is not in a bind financially. So I assume they are going to lower property taxes with this money. My theory of course has always been and still is and Senator Schmit and a couple of the other of us have a bill, LB 964, that would put a sales tax, an increase in sales tax on across the State of Nebraska would give the cities the same amount they are asking for now but would also help the rest of the communities. There isn't any way that our small towns can put on a penny sales tax now and help themselves any. The administration would be more than the revenue would bring in. I think we made a mistake when our predecessors passed the sales and income tax that they ever left the cities have the right to have a penny sales tax and now wanting another half penny. We're going to find ourselves in state government without funds one of these days because we're not going to be able to raise the sales tax in order to get the necessary revenue because the City of Omaha is already 4½¢ and Lincoln wants to do the same thing. If you talk about raising the sales tax across the state how much support are you going to get when better than half the population is already paying a higher sales tax than the rest of the state? But just mainly to cut my talk short, I just feel that especially in the capital city of our state we should not have to be burdened with another half cent sales tax because we have no choice but to come here. Thank you.