

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes, although I will be happy to talk about that in the debate of the bill, if my answer gets too long.

SENATOR NICHOL: All right, okay.

SENATOR LANDIS: I just want to say that the Legislature has set a policy and when we first discussed that policy we raised the question about what this means for the future of municipal finances. At that time I was in opposition to the extension of the half cent sales tax, because the sales tax is a state revenue source. The Legislature, by majority vote, indicated that a policy was being created, it said that cities who are willing to go to their people to vote for it should be allowed, in the event they can make a showing that justifies it, to have this half-cent sales tax. I am now asking that that policy which we set last year, over my objection, be extended to its reasonable next step. All of the same conditions apply and that it is reasonable to take this action and furtherance of that policy.

SENATOR NICHOL: Thank you, Senator Landis, and my purpose in asking the question was certainly not to embarrass Senator Landis but to make the point that once we have established policy for a metropolitan city, a city of the primary class, in my opinion, it should be extended to cities of the first class and if cities of lesser population would like to it I would have no objections to it. I think we have established a policy and I would support Senator Peterson's amendment as of yesterday, thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR HOWARD PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I would rise to vigorously oppose the Vickers motion. It seems to me that when we are considering a matter of public policy, which I think we are in terms of this particular bill, that it is important for us to consider not only the two metropolitan areas, which we gave the authority to Omaha last year, and which Lincoln is asking for this year, we also passed that right on to those communities that have similar problems. I can assure you that in our first class cities in this state the problems that have been described for Lincoln are just as vital and just as important to those first class cities. That is the reason I offered the amendment. I think we need to be fair in what we do. It seems to me that as we address the issues in the future that it will be much easier for us to address those issues if we have treated all of these