

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you for not distributing the information, Senator Sieck, in order not to jeopardize LB 591. I am so glad to be kept in the dark here so that I don't have a chance to take a look at the figures and where they are from and what it was that they were supposed to mean. It is also interesting because if nothing else, it contradicts Senator Kahle's arguments made on General File and Select File that millions are being extracted from outstate people at the hands of Lincoln merchants. In fact, you've documented that Senator Kahle is entirely wrong with that assumption that his figures are way overestimated when he runs into the millions of dollars figures. I do find an irony in that these figures as you stated were interesting for this bill and other bills, was your phrase, and I guess that is what we are talking about here, isn't it? I can't stop anybody on this floor from voting a vindictive or retributive vote. There is no way to do it. It is a matter of individual conscience. I understand Senator Kahle has genuine policy arguments with LB 591. That doesn't puzzle me. That doesn't surprise me. He has exhibited them in committee. We had an amicable but divergent conversation at that point. We have had it on Select File. We have had it on General File. This does not surprise me. Senator Sieck's change of vote, however, at this late date seems to me to be tied, not to the tenet of 591, but perhaps to other parts of our agenda. I suppose this is the chance if you are looking for it for retribution and for being vindictive on policy questions, on fiscal questions that are going to come up later in the morning's debate. I can't stop you from doing that. I will try personally very hard to make sure that I vote on bills as they come up one by one on their policy implications. What I hope to be able to say to you is that I won't return in kind this type of treatment. I will try very hard to make sure that when I vote, I vote on the policy implications of the question before me, absent its place on the agenda, absent the other questions of the day and whether or not I have won or lost the one or two or three issues before that time, but whether or not the law is a good one and a wise one and if it is I intend to support it and if it is a bad bill, I hope very much that I will have the strength to oppose it simply because it is a bad bill. I have made some votes recently as others of my colleagues have that have angered a lot of people. I can't apologize for that. I made those votes in good faith based on my reading of the values at play. If we disagree, so be it. If this is your response, so be that as well. I hope not to respond in kind. Finally, let me just point out that 591 is an optional piece of legislation. It continues the fabric of policy we began in the last several years and I see no reason to foreclose the City of Lincoln asking its citizens, as the City of Omaha has done, for the authority to