

or their will in a given situation, there is a certain arrangement that comes along with that. So I think this bill, 591 is doomed. It is an unclean thing, not the bill itself, but the way it is being considered. So I am trying to bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing. There are power brokers that would be power brokers in Omaha and from Omaha. They disregard the interests and welfare of the people as a whole, they play politics, they will use any situation or anybody's plight to advance their own interests. In politics since this is expected and nobody expects a politician to have very high morals or standards of ethics, I guess it is supposed to be allowable. Now I do have some principles. I know that out of every bad situation something can be salvaged if it is handled in the proper fashion. I have been opposed to the sales tax in Omaha. I have been always opposed to the sales tax on food. With the addition of a one-half percent sales tax the tax in Omaha now is 5%. As I have said on many occasions and others have too, poor people spend a disproportionate amount of their income for utilities and food. So even though the tax is a flat 5% rate, the percentage of a person's expendable income is much greater for food and utilities than it would be for those who have a lot of money. So the 5% for a rich person may be negligible. 5% for a poor person means the difference between having certain items of food and not having them, being cold and not being cold. So what I would like the Legislature to do, whatever your motives, whoever you desire to punish, whatever message you desire to get across to whoever you are interested in getting a message across to, help me bring this bill back and attach this amendment. I will be very frank about what my intention is. It is to take a bill which is doomed and use it to give a message to the people in Omaha. I don't mean just the citizens now. There are two messages. One is to the power brokers and would-be power brokers, that they cannot run roughshod over everybody and get away with it. The message to the populace is that there is some concern about the rate of taxation that they are being required to assume. So what I want to do with a doomed bill is take it and convey a message which message is valid, is justifiable. If you want to compare what I am doing to the discovery of penicillin you can. There was a mold that formed and from a study of this mold was the discovery of penicillin. That is a gross oversimplification but mold generally is considered a bad thing. LB 591 is a mold now. We can extract from that mold a healing substance. That is what I want my amendment to do. So I am asking that for whatever private motives you may have for being against this bill, you will support the return of it in order that I might add this amendment. I am serious about it. I tried to add it to other bills earlier in the session and my intentions have never been concealed. I am opposed to the tax on food. I am opposed to the state's tax base being eroded by allowing