

discussion on the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 236. Senator Hall, any closing?

SENATOR HALL: No, Mr. President, I'd just urge the adoption.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question then is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 236. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. To the bill as amended, Senator Wehrbein, would you care to make a statement.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker and members, this simply is a bill, as has been stated previously, to add the names to delinquent tax lists as printed in the paper. They already have now the description and the amount owed by delinquent taxes. I will proceed on a little bit more about this. We are around us...you can look at the fact sheet that I handed out. In addition to that, all surrounding states already have this. Many of them have had this for many, many years. The key to this, the key reason behind this is to try to increase our delinquent tax payments. If you look at it, we are heavily dependent on property taxes in Nebraska, and it only seems logical to me that those that are due and owing on property taxes should pay them, make it more equal and fair to all of us who pay taxes. I did some little research in my district in particular. In Cass County, out of \$12,100,093 due in 1987, there are presently \$750,314 delinquent, which is a 93.8 percent payment, or in reverse, it is a 6.2 percent delinquent. In 1986, we had \$10,843,000 due in Cass County, and at the present time, there is \$313,711 due. It is a similar case in Otoe County of 9 million, almost nine point...\$9.5 million. There are now presently \$500,000 in overdue taxes that are still not paid. So anything that we can do, I believe, to increase the payment of delinquent taxes in our counties should be helpful, and I think that this should really be cost effective. It cost Cass County in 1986 to publish their taxes, \$2,747. So if we can increase the return of taxes only slightly, the payment of taxes only slightly, it would appear to me to be very cost effective. That ought to be an excellent reason for supporting this bill. As you know, many counties, cities, and especially