

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Labeledz, would you care to discuss the amendment?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Yes, I do. In the handout that Senator Hall gave us the lodging tax returned to counties for 1987, and I'm sure that they still have the same amount, we have 28 counties that are now receiving 2 percent of the lodging tax. We have one county with 1.5, and two counties with 1. I do not believe and I very seldom disapprove of anything that Senator Conway does, but I stand and rise to oppose the Conway amendment. The other handout we have on our desk, the examples of Douglas County attractions that could benefit under 262, in Douglas County, for instance, are Rosenblatt Stadium, the Orpheum Theater, the Omaha Civic Auditorium, Joslyn Art Museum, Fort Omaha, and I wish Senator Chambers was on the floor, but it would also benefit the Black History Museum, the public recreation sites, the Omaha Community Playhouse, the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, the Western Heritage Museum, the Hitchcock Park Arena, and the Henry Doerly Zoo. Each and every one of those tourist attractions are very important to the City of Omaha. If you also look at the other handout that was given to you, Chicago, for instance, has a 10 percent lodging tax, Minneapolis 3, Dallas 5, Detroit 6, Phoenix 6, and New York \$2 a day, plus 5 percent lodging tax. Now many of us have traveled throughout the country on different conferences held in some of the states, especially in some of these cities, and we pay a very high lodging tax in addition to...the sales tax, for instance, in Chicago is 5.25, Kansas City 5.25, St. Louis 5.625, Minneapolis 6.5, Dallas 7 percent, Detroit 4, Phoenix 6.5, and New York the \$2 a day plus 5 percent lodging tax, plus 8.25 sales tax and the total is 13.25 for the City of New York, Chicago is 15.25. So you can see when we travel we do pay a high sales tax and a lodging tax in these other cities. Asking for a 2 percent increase in Douglas County, in any county, and again, and I know it's been mentioned several times, this is local option. It does have to have a public hearing and voted on by members of the county board. So I urge you to reject Conway's amendment and let's go on with LB 262.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before recognizing Senator Ashford, I am pleased to announce that our doctor of the day comes to us from District 22, specifically Columbus, Senator Robak's district. We have with us today Dr. Ron Klutman, who is seated under the north balcony near the front of the Chamber.