

end that I would like to achieve would at least be attainable in the proximity of Douglas County. But I do believe that there are benefits that can be derived throughout the state by the use of this additional tax that would provide benefits to those other recreational and tourist attractions that could use additional monies. If the Conway amendment is a vehicle that the body feels needs to be added to 262, so be it. I accept that. But I would urge the members of the Legislature to look at the limitations, with regard to local control, that LB 262 currently contains before you cast your vote on Senator Conway's amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, would you care to discuss the amendment? Senator Dierks on deck.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I visited a little bit with some of the members about the bill. And I believe I have decided that I will have to oppose the Conway amendment. I really do not see any need for the amendment. If the county board does not want to avail themselves of the opportunities under the bill, then, of course, they need not do so. If they do decide that they want to make the tax available then perhaps they still must hold a hearing and give the public a chance to have some input. As I indicated earlier, Butler County has, I believe, only one motel. Saunders County does not have very many motels but both of those communities might, in some way or other, decide they might want to compete just a little bit with the motels in Omaha. And I think another thing you want to remember about this is that it is a progressive tax. The motels that I stay in, the tax is not going to be that substantial. I was in a New York motel here some time ago, the tax on that motel was almost more than what I pay out at the Airport Inn. And so I would suggest that, from that standpoint, it is a progressive kind of tax. I do wish that I did have more motel space available in my area, it might be a source of funding for the Bongers Museum which may fall upon hard times otherwise if we are not able to raise some money other ways. I think also that there are some outstate communities, such as Columbus, Grand Island and Kearney which are in a strong position to compete for tourism, and I think they ought to have that tool available to them. I know that the tax is paid by their people rather than the county in which the tax is levied, and I guess there isn't anything we can do about that. But most of us do a considerable amount of traveling. Most of us pay the tax as we travel, and