

that body and to move on. I know certainly on LB 48 there were plenty of opportunities on close votes that I could have offered reconsideration because you want to win so badly but I think that is an abuse of the system and, one, a practice that should not be used, therefore, I did not do so and will continue not to do so. This case, however, is a little bit different, in my view. The bill is an important bill to Senator Hall, obviously, because he chose it as his priority bill, and whenever we have a bill important, as all bills are, but some bills have a little bit more importance to us, as members of the body, I feel that the Legislature needs to give as much attention to a bill as possible. When the amendment that Senator Baack, Senator Conway, and I proposed was brought up, it was on an afternoon when many of the members, in fact a tremendous number, unusually large number of members were absent as we were beginning into a three-day weekend. I, personally, was gone as well. The amendment was considered and it was a very close vote. It was like 17, I believe, in favor, 16 against, and everyone else, basically, gone. So I don't feel the amendment itself was given a really fair shot by the majority members of the body. If the body would agree or not agree with the amendment, personally, I don't care. It is what the body wishes to do. But I think the bill is important enough to members of the body that it deserves a free shot up or down, one way or the other, with a majority of the members here. That is why, as a not voting person, being absent, I filed a motion to reconsider. I will also state for the body what the amendment does. The bill as it now stands gives everyone in the state the option to put on the tax, if they so desire, through the county boards. It was heard in the Government Committee, and there was a lot of discussion that this was just maybe a Douglas County bill and they would like to make it for the entire state in order to make it more palatable to the senators on the floor. I know I, as many of you, have received a tremendous amount of impact from at least people in my district saying that they were not in favor of 262, and I, personally, would have voted against, I believe, 262 when it came in that particular form. However, in all fairness, since it was a proposal by Douglas County, I and the other senators that were on the amendment said, we might as well make the amendment, make the bill say exactly what it really needs, that the people in Douglas County may want this particular option, so let's give them a chance to have that option. If it works well for Douglas County, if they decide to implement it and it works well, other counties may want to take advantage of that in the future. That certainly is an option available to the