

Legislature at a later time. But I thought the bill should be voted on at least on the merits of what the people who truly are interested in it, and so I offered the amendment. It did not have a very easy time of it because of the tremendous absentee rate. Therefore, I thought in all fairness to Senator Hall and others that are interested in LB 262 that the motion should be reconsidered, and, Mr. President, that is the reason for the motion at this time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the motion to reconsider, Senator Hall, followed by Senator Crosby.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of Senator Bernard-Stevens's motion to reconsider the Conway, Baack, Bernard-Stevens amendment which would limit the impact of LB 262 to Douglas County. The examples that I passed out to you previously, and I won't overheat the Xerox machine to pass them out again, showed you how Omaha would rank with the increase on the lodging tax in comparison to a number of other cities, and since the debate on this issue when we last met on it, I went back and looked and actually found an article, but I lost it between the time I read it and clipped it and the time I got here, so I don't have it to hand out to you, but it showed that the way the lodging tax has worked across the country is that a number of cities or basically counties have used it to do exactly what we propose to do in LB 262 and that is to make improvements of a capital nature to some of these same types of attractions that we would allow through LB 262 to take place. They, of course, use it for the traditional purpose of promoting tourism and attracting folks into their community, conventions and the like, but they have recognized more recently that it is also a source of funds to maintain these attractions that many people come to the communities to view, and with that, I understand that there is some concern from members of other sections of the state that feel that this is an issue that does not affect them. They would not desire to be a part of it, and at this point in time, based that we had previous on the Conway amendment, it is clear to me that the body would prefer to see LB 262 in a form such as the amendment would have it. So with that, Mr. President, I will, wholeheartedly, support the Senator Bernard-Stevens reconsideration motion and would urge the body to move to reconsider that vote and attach the Conway amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, Senator Beyer