

the newspaper, wants to make promises. And, like I said before, the Arts Council also has a request into the appropriations that they are considering for extra money, I think that that is the proper way to go rather than to keep eroding our sales tax base by adding sales tax onto other areas. So, with that, I would appreciate your support of the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. On the motion to indefinitely postpone, Senator Labeledz, followed by Senator Hall.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in opposition to the indefinite postponement of LB 262. If you recall, on General File before I mentioned the fact and gave you examples of Douglas County attractions that would benefit under LB 262, and they are listed as follows--the Rosenblatt Stadium, the Orpheum Theater, the Omaha Civic Auditorium, the Joslyn Art Museum, Fort Omaha, the Black History Museum, the public recreation sites, the Omaha Community Playhouse, the Emmy Gifford's Children Theater, the Western Heritage Museum and the Hitchcock Park Arena and the Henry Doorly Zoo. I also mentioned that fact that the lodging tax, in surrounding cities, like Chicago, Kansas City and St. Louis, Minneapolis, Dallas, Detroit, some of them are as high as eight and a half percent when you include the sales tax and the lodging tax. In Chicago it's 15.25 percent, in Kansas City it's 8, almost 9 percent, in St. Louis it's over 9 percent, Minneapolis is 9.50, Dallas is 12, Detroit is 10, Phoenix is 12.5, and listen to this, in New York it's 13.25 percent plus \$2 a day. What we're asking for is a slight increase in the hotel-motel tax. It was amended in committee and I gave you the tourist attractions that will benefit from it. The Black History Museum and the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater are finding it very, very difficult to operate, and they will be given grants from the Douglas County Board in order to help them operate and keep in existence things that are very important to children, including the Western Heritage Museum. I don't know how many of you have been there, but that is really something beautiful, but it's awfully, awfully hard to operate any one of these tourist attractions without additional funds and grants from the county. So I urge you to vote against Senator Beyer's kill motion on LB 262 and let us discuss LB 262 as amended on General File for advancement. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall, would you care to speak to the motion to indefinitely postpone?