

I would make. I think that the issue to lay the bill over is an option that we all have as introducers of measures. But be that as it may, the issue of whether or not to kill the bill is before us today. I hope that the body is listening to the debate and the issue that the importance that this bill will play for Douglas County. It clearly is a Douglas County bill now. The Conway amendment insures that. But I think that the issue of whether or not the tax is prohibitive bears some comparison. The comparison was laid out earlier by Senator Labedz, but I would just repeat that, for example, the City of Chicago has a 15.25 sales tax on lodging. The City of St. Louis has 10 cents, the City of Cleveland is at 9 cents. The City of Phoenix is at 12.50 cents. The City of Detroit is at 10, the City of Dallas is at 12, and the City of New York is all by itself, the tax in the City of New York, Senator Hefner, is probably about what you paid for your room in Omaha when you stayed there the other night, it is...that I would consider prohibitive. The tax on the hotel room, I guess, in the City of Omaha I would not consider prohibitive. When you're talking about the difference possibly through the passage of LB 262 to staying in a motel room in Douglas County versus Sarpy County it would be approximately, say the cost of the room would be somewhere around 35 to 50 dollars. I think you would be...The difference there would be in the neighborhood of 80 cents, 80 cents a night in terms of whether you stay closer to the attractions that you'd like to be, or do you drive another 15 to 20 minutes in order to save 80 cents a night. I don't think that that's the kind of regressive tax that or oppressive tax that one might be led to believe, if you listen to some of the proponents of this kill motion. I think that clearly what you have to look at is what the tax is going to be used for. It is not going to go into the General Fund and just be divided up however elected officials might see fit. It is going to be used solely and strictly for the benefit of these attractions. What you have here is the lodging industry which says we don't like the tax, but we love the attractions. There's a love-hate relationship there because they need those attractions, they promote those attractions, they want those attractions, they locate their businesses next to those attractions. They feed off of those attractions. They're there because of the attractions, but yet they don't want to play any part in helping to maintain those attractions by basically just collecting a tax. All the lodging facilities that are around there have to charge that same tax, only when you have county crossing do you run into the problem, and again for 80 cents I don't see that