

understanding, is totally within the scope of what is allowed by both the Constitution and the statutes. With that, I would urge the adoption of the amendment because I do not feel that it is appropriate for the city, or basically any government, to levy these types of property taxes or sales taxes, to then be used to purchase property that is to entice businesses into their area and to make the argument that Senator Scofield did, that there will be competition is I think a good argument because the competition will be there. The competition does neither go away, what you do when you adopt 11CA is...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...you intensify that competition. You, basically, support that competition. You put it into the Constitution and say that we will ingrain that competition amongst communities into our Constitution of this state. I don't think that is a proper use of tax dollars. One of the things that the Omaha Development Foundation invested in was a little thing on the corner of 16th and Douglas called ParkFair. ParkFair was a building, a commercial building, that was supposed to be the cornerstone, the redevelopment of the 16th Street corridor, which as many of you know, used to be the hot spot on Saturdays for all the shopping and I can remember walking to a library on Saturday mornings, and there had to be ten shoe stores along 16th Street between St. Mary's and Dodge Street. Well, there was a real transition in the downtown area. They had to bring some things back and that was one of the reasons the Development Foundation...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...was established back in 1980. Well, Omaha's ParkFair was supposed to be the cornerstone of that redevelopment. ParkFair, since it has been established, has remained at least 30 percent empty and sometimes...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...much more than that. It is one of the things that can happen when you do allow tax dollars to be used for these kinds of purposes. Basically, ladies and gentlemen, it is a gamble, and depending on who is doing the gambling, it may pay off, and it may not. ParkFair has not paid off. ParkFair is one of those things that we don't talk a lot about anymore in