

southern end, even with Kansas. Same way on the eastern end. There isn't a surrounding state that has to operate under the kinds of constitutional restrictions that our communities in Nebraska have to operate under and I haven't seen any of them suffering devastating results from the lack of the kind of language that we're trying to take out of our Constitution and I think, in fact, it has probably served those states better and it's obvious that it's hurting us. So I think that your arguments simply don't hold water if you've been out there and talked to these communities. This isn't going to bring about any acrimony. There is already a very fierce competition out there, fierce competition for things like community development block grants. The argument of equity I just...I can't make that mesh because what you're really saying is it's okay to do certain kinds of initiatives if they happen to work, if you happen to have the ability to do them in the metropolitan areas but it's not okay to give small communities an opportunity to determine their own destiny and, in fact, to determine whether they are even going to go there. You have to look around at some of the kinds of initiatives that we have allowed to happen in this state primarily to benefit the larger cities in the state.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: And I'm going to...I'll put my light back on and talk about this later. But, for instance, you were here in 1978, you were here in 1982 when we did tax increment financing. I would wonder how some of the opponents in this body, of this measure, voted on that issue. That mainly benefitted Lincoln and Omaha. That was how the Cornhusker Hotel was built. For those of you who don't know how that works, you take...you take the tax...the taxes of that building or project or whatever it is off the tax base and then incrementally put it back on. Many of the initiatives that we're putting in here directly benefit urban areas in this state. I'm suggesting that if you want to see the Cornhusker Hotel continue to be filled with conventioners, if you want to continue to see these little towns that come in here for, doesn't matter whether it's wrestling matches or basketball matches or whatever...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...then we'd better take some serious steps to make sure those communities are out there because if we don't