

bidding war that they were destined to lose. The bidding war is exactly what we're talking about. We now bid state against state and this would now move us into city against city within a state. I think it's divisive and I think it's wrong. I think what you find is that it also heads us in the wrong direction. If you spend money on this type of activity, again, we're talking about property taxes going for this use. You will, I think, end up misdirecting that money that could be used for other needs. I again emphasize, economic development is more than tax breaks, more than public assistance, more than putting business on the public dole as we seem to want to do in the last few years. That is the mind-set, that's the attitude that we have in Nebraska of the last three years, but that wasn't always the case. Economic development used to mean more than that. It used to mean all the other things that we talked about with the Research and Development Authority, business development centers across the state, the technical assistance center, the food processing center, educational reform, training assistance. All those types of things are economic development as much or more than the tax breaks that we've spent so much time on the last few years and tax breaks, again, head us down the wrong road because it's money that could be spent for a positive turned around, and I think spent in a fashion that will end up being negative to the state as we divide us city by city, rural versus urban, and, again, my emphasis isn't that this is going to hurt Lincoln, not at all. In fact, if you want to get into it, we're going to be benefitted by it. Don't forget Lincoln tried to steal away ConAgra from Omaha and if that happened under the current situation, you'll find it happening even more as we allow each city to open up its coffers to the private sector. As for the fact that competition exists, I'm not naive enough to recognize that that is the case, it is, but it's a different type of competition and I mentioned it in my opening. You use private funds, chamber of commerce funds, foundation funds and that's one thing that I don't feel anybody has any problem with. You compete, yes, for federal community development block grants and, again, there is competition but it's federal monies and how long that lasts, who knows. But when you open up to the property taxpayers, I think those of you who talk about being concerned about property taxes should recognize that this offers one more opportunity for uses of property taxes that could lead to higher property taxes and if we're truly concerned about that, hopefully you would express that concern. We are now moving into a different area. Yes, sales taxes could be used, but property taxes would be the predominant funding source for