

dollar limitation caps. And the reason that I want to do that is because I think that all cities ought to be able to compete on an equal footing in this particular program. If you put, for example, a cap of \$3 million on the City of Omaha in a situation where every community, be it first class city or village or city of the second class, has a million dollars, you are going to surround the Omaha communities with their \$3 million cap with communities that can put into these kinds of programs seven, eight, nine, ten million dollars, depending on how many of those communities you want to count. I think the effect of this kind of provision is to give advantage to the small community versus the City of Omaha in this particular example because they will, in total, be able to allow much more in incentives than the City of Omaha will. As I understand the way the bill is supposed to work, it is not supposed to be to compete with each other for economic development, not between the cities here in Nebraska, but rather to capture business from other states. The main objective is to be competitive with other states. Since the people of the communities are voting on these caps anyway, you have to, when you vote on these measures, you have to state the exact dollar amount that is going into your fund, then it seems to me that each community ought to be able to decide what kind of a cap it wants on its particular program. Or in the alternative, this cap should be adjusted so that the relative valuations of different communities are represented in some sort of proportional basis on these dollar caps. If, for example, you were going to compare the cap of the City of Omaha with the cap of a second class city or a village, obviously, the cap should be, on a valuation basis, the cap should be maybe ten times as high or higher. The way this is presently constructed, I think it is very prejudicial to the Cities of Omaha and Lincoln because they are set apart in a special situation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Are there any senators who wish to debate this amendment? Senator Hartnett, do you wish to debate this amendment?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam President and members of the body, yes, I simply rise to oppose this amendment. I passed out a handout to you and on the handout a list of cities, what they could raise with 4/10ths of 1 percent money, and it would simply, for the City of Omaha, they could put into their program over \$35 million. And I think when the committee heard the bill this year and before, we simply decided upon for cities like Omaha