

difficult time with any constitutional amendment before the voters. To argue against a proposal like 1120 or a sales tax, general sales tax increase based on whether or not it's going to sell to the public is a self-serving argument. That's exactly what it is. The issue here is one of, that Senator Johnson raises, is he's right in saying that it's easy to do and that it is constitutional. I agree with that. The fact of the matter is it's totally inequitable, it's totally inequitable. The issue in 1120 has always been addressed by the opponents of it as being soecific taxes, specific sales taxes on industry or businesses. What they are, ladies and gentlemen, are specific exemptions that they have been granted. They have been granted exemptions for who knows what reasons, some of them because they didn't exist at the time of the sales tax was put in place back in the late sixties. That's all. They have no right to that exemption other than the time of their birth, when they happened to come into play, but yet we look at this issue and we say that specific taxes will be the death knell, whether it be a specific tax in the case of an exemption, and that's what they are, they are specific exemptions. And I would argue to you, ladies and gentlemen, that there are a whole group of people out there in Nebraska who say, you know, these exemptions are what are the problem. It almost is the same type of argument that Senator Johnson uses for purposes of the one cent sales tax is that it applies to everybody because those folks out there who don't have the exemption, Joe Lunchbucket who has to go to work every day and says, I don't have anybody down there representing my interests. I pay sales tax when I walk out the door of every store, of every utility company, of every theater that I go to. When I have to ante up, I not only ante up the price, I ante up the sales tax because there's a whole laundry list of exemptions that are out here, specific exemptions that are targeted for one reason or another. They are not here for any reason other than the fact that they had the ability because of the lobby to be protected. And what Senator Johnson's amendment, although I know it is offered in good faith, does, is it strikes that majority of people in this state who don't have the ability to come down here and have their interests represented. They are the folks that elected each of us to be here. They are the ones that we ought to be listening to more often. I think that they would take a look at an issue like 1120 as it was brought to the floor with committee amendments, they would read it, they would understand it for one thing, and they would look at the specific taxes and they would vote yes up or down. They would vote informed up or down on the issue. And I have a hell of a lot