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little towns, 11, 12 hundred, 5, 6,000 dollars means a lot to those people, they mean a lot to them. In comparison it means just as much to them as it means to people in Omaha and Lincoln. And we can talk about 309, I don't see the analogy from 309. If we want more money in 309, I'd vote for more money in 309. I think Senator Moore is correct on that. But I don't see the analogy between this situation and that. I urge you to vote for the Schellpeper amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Wehrbein, your light is next.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, I hate to extend the debate. I was going to call the question, but I can't resist saying something. My main concern is preserving the state's interest in what...in this income stream. And I...that's been my premise from the beginning, it isn't that I want to be hard on cities and villages. But someone has to look out for the protection of the state's income sources. And I consider this one of the strong ones. In terms of dollars that are falling into the state and from my perspective we gave it away a few years ago, wrongly so. That's beside the point at this time. But the thing is if we don't take care of our proper state functions, no one else will, no one else will. And 309, maybe Senator Robinson considers it beside the point, but I don't. We've got a lot of state buildings out there needing more maintenance and more care than we are properly giving them today, and we keep cutting the price down instead of going up. We have regional centers that are on the verge of being closed if we'd taken the cut in DPI. We have troopers that would have been off the road if we had taken the full cut in the State Patrol. So we have responsibilities to the citizens of this state. And I just can't see giving away our tax base for functions that are properly the function of the State of Nebraska. It isn't to say that cities and villages don't have those responsibilities, too. But they have some sources of income, in many cases. They all don't have a sales tax, that's true. But the ones that are...some of the ones that are fighting hardest for this very issue do have sales tax, and that includes Omaha and Lincoln and some of the bigger ones. They do have sales tax access and they are using it. And if you ask them, they have a high percent of their budget coming from sales tax. So it isn't that we've cut them off with nothing. This gives them some planning time to get into it. And I think the time has come for all of us to look at this from a statewide