

that belt, not the buckle, not the rivet, not the "vinyl" skins that made it up. And I think that's something we've gotten far afield from in the discussion over 106. As a member of the Revenue Committee I voted 106 out, not because I'm a livestock owner and have been a livestock feeder in the past, not because I'm in production agriculture, but based upon my belief that in our sales and use tax statute we have what might generally be called a consumption tax rather than a value added tax. And we have traditionally exempted materials that went into the production of something that was designed for resale and consumption at some other point in time. This bill followed, of course, the one we had for Nucor Steel and the one that was subsequently amended with the Ash Grove Cemen', which I think contained the self...the same tax principle. We either have a value added tax in Nebraska or we do not. Somehow or the other this particular production item has escaped and has been taxed for a number of years. I don't know why, I rather suspect because of a Department of Revenue ruling at some time back, shortly after the...after the imposition of the sales tax in Nebraska. I wanted to point that out because we've wondered kind of far afield on this, and that was my position. I can't respond, of course, to the rest of the members of Revenue Committee as to why they voted for the advancement or against the advancement. But my position, and still is on this bill, that we either have a sales tax system that is a consumptive tax base, or we begin the process with this, and if this is going to be our tax policy I suppose it's all right, but perhaps we ought to start examining a value added tax, levying some sort of revenue fee on each step of the manufacturing process on the goods that go into whatever it is that are made in Nebraska. I don't support the indefinite postpone motion. I think that this bill ought to be moved along, and at some time yet this session we make the decision as to whether we reemphasize how our sales tax is imposed on products that are being created in Nebraska, or we say, no, we don't have enough money to do that. But let's do it all in one package and not piecemeal. We've gotten kind of...we've had a little fun, I think, with the bill. But it is, quite frankly, a relatively serious interpretation of what it is that our sales tax statutes, as they're currently imposed in the State of Nebraska, actually mean. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Jones a question or two, if I may.