

on the motion to bracket.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I think Senator Chambers is right, we do have a crisis. If this bill would pass, we have a crisis, not in our large towns but we have a crisis in our rural towns. And anybody that believes that this body is going to come back in two years and raise taxes is in some other planet. It just won't happen. I've tried to expand the sales tax base ever since I have been here. It gets to the Revenue Committee, it dies. The Nebraska Chamber does not want to see anything changed with our property tax. They're happy where it's at. You try to expand the tax on food or the tax on services, they're opposed to it. Where else are you going to raise the revenue except sales and income tax? They're opposed to it. It won't happen. What you're going to do is kill the small towns. They don't have enough power down here to come in and say, we need 200 million dollars. That won't happen. If Omaha and Lincoln came down and said, we need 200 million, I think we could get it, but this bill doesn't affect them. So why would this body come in and put 200 million dollars in in two years? The power that be won't let it happen. It just won't. This amendment to bracket, if we can't get the Maurstad amendment then I think the bracket of this bill might be the best thing to do. I don't want to see it happen, but I think if the Maurstad amendment is adopted then I think we can move on and talk about how we...how we're going to fund schools. But if we don't do that then the bill just as well be bracketed because nothing can happen except to devastate rural Nebraska. I think that would happen if we don't accept the Maurstad amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Schellpeper, don't be so naive, and all of those of you from these little towns. Senator Maurstad, I'm surprised at you, except that I know you know you're not going to get your amendment adopted. I think you know that pretty well. You can see the writing on the wall. The juggernaut is moving. Behemoth, leviathan have all come together in what is a menage a trois or whatever that is, or what? Menage a trois, look that up for those of you all who neither speak nor understand French, but you can bet your bottom dollar that if I