

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: ..our share of the sales tax, will this....

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Cudaback, your time is up. Senator Warner may be fast, but you weren't, so Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, probably I better preface this with, Senator Maurstad, that I will oppose your amendment, but there's an issue here that I would like to bring to the body's attention which I don't think we've discussed yet, and that's the area of economic development; that if you look at the economic development that's been done around the state I think you will find that your cities and counties are your innovators. They're the ones that have done job creation, probably more than anything that the state has done. They have invested tax dollars, hired economic developers for demographics, went out and recruited a lot of people, but more than that the selling point that for the most part that you have in the state of Nebraska is quality of life, and the quality of life comes from basics. It's parks, it's sidewalks, it's roads, it's access to education, and it's health care, and many of those come from local property tax. I think with the bill we need to be aware that for every action there is a reaction and I don't think that we recognize all of those at this time and, though we may have a period of time here to see how things work out I think it behooves this body to be very attentive in to what happens with the consolidations, and I'm one of those that promotes consolidation, but I also look at being a regional trade center that we depend upon the smaller communities around us. We're only as healthy as those communities that surround us and one of the things that has been feared in this state has been a shift in the population; that the small rural towns are disappearing and they're going to the larger ones, and I think probably this could be a trend that could be escalated with some of the things that we're doing. Economic development creates people, creates jobs, it creates sales and it creates income tax, and so keeping in mind when we're doing the kinds of things that we're doing today, and again I'm going to oppose Senator Maurstad's amendment, that you may find that your counties and your cities and your schools play a role that maybe we're overlooking in this process and I think it would be important for us to really follow that very carefully. And, with that, I would give the rest of my time to Senator Cudaback, since you