

Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if you're from Omaha and Lincoln or even Scottsbluff or Sidney where sales tax is a pretty good share of your revenue, this provision on levy limits on cities, municipalities is not a big deal because you don't have a problem. A good chunk of your revenue comes from someplace else. Superior is trying to build up a fund so they can attract industry for economic development. They're trying to build up some funds. They're assessing a sales tax for that. I'm afraid if we do this, all of a sudden, they won't have enough latitude to put money into their Economic Development Fund. And if there's one thing a town like Superior needs, and I'm sure it's like a lot of rural towns out there, they need some money to try and attract industry. Even the Governor is trying to provide some money to try and attract industry in rural Nebraska. But I believe it's done better at a local level than for the state to try and do that. I believe we need to give our rural communities a little more leeway on this. From a selfish standpoint, this doesn't affect agriculture, so it doesn't bother me, but I think...think you've got to realize a lot of those houses in rural Nebraska aren't valued very high. There's not a lot of valuation for them to tax. We don't see homes in Orleans, Nebraska like there is around the Firethorn Golf Course out here. There's not too many homes in that community valued over \$25,000 or \$30,000. But who's going to take care of their garbage, and who's going to take care of their water, and who's going to take care of the government services...the city services they need? I think Senator Maurstad has brought a good amendment here. It's been in the spirit of compromise. I think it's something we should move forward, and I totally support the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I stand in support of the Maurstad amendment. I represent a district that has two small towns, actually three small towns counting Gretna, that's mostly Senator Avery's district, but I do have part of Gretna, that are Class II cities--Elkhorn and Bennington. In the last year, Elkhorn annexed some areas, which included the area where I live, I used to live in an SID, and we've never had better street maintenance, better police