

coverage than what we've had since we were annexed. Them services cost money and LB 1114, as it now stands, I don't believe it's going to shut down a city the size of Elkhorn or Bennington, but it is going to cripple them and we aren't going to get the services that we're presently getting. And we aren't asking for the Cadillac of services. We're asking for just decent coverage which we have finally just recently got and are beginning to enjoy. I think the Maurstad amendment to the amendment is a good compromise bringing the amendment to a point that it will not cripple this package of bills. Most of our towns in the state of Nebraska are small towns. I represent part of Omaha too. Omaha does all right with this. But we've got to remember the small towns and, as Senator Schellpeper mentioned, the people that are on fixed incomes and, as I read this, it is not, we talk about crippling communities or small towns, I don't believe this amendment, after it's been amended again, will cripple our package of property tax relief bills. I urge your support of the amendment to the amendment and then the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. I also rise in support of the Maurstad amendment. Just a couple of things to add. I live in a small town and for years I kept the books and was the treasurer and clerk for that town for 75 dollars a month, mainly because they couldn't afford to spend any more. We have a man that works the street and takes care of the sewer and does a lot of those odd jobs for the town for minimum wage because the town can't afford any more and this is just typical of a lot of the communities that we're dealing with because they're really a bare bones. I think our levy for taxes in my town is about 23,000 dollars a year and you stop and figure out what you can do with that kind of money. We paved a number of streets in our town. If it hadn't been for the federal CDB block grants, we could have never done that, and even then it's difficult to match any of those dollars. In fact, we've had to back away from even finishing up some of the paving because there was not even the match money to do the job. I recognize that it is difficult to start down the road of starting to say that you're going to do this for these people and not that for those people. But I want to also include the comment that Senator Schrock made and that is that most all of the large cities that have the sales tax, you have to understand that when