

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 26, 1999 LB 271

King at the Student Union. We've talked about the leases to hay right-of-ways besides roads, let alone airports. If it's not for public purpose to keep vegetation down, then it would be taxed perhaps. University and community college bookstores for a portion of noneducation-related sales; vending machines. I mean, if this is a bill to expand the tax base, I think we're heading in the right direction, but I think it definitely raises some questions. Just imagine all the vending machines around the state and the many things that it...and the public property that it is placed upon. Pay telephones at a public library or at city hall that are used for personal use. Bus advertising for public transportation. This is to raise revenue to help defray the costs of the system but it's certainly not a public use. The bus stop bench advertising in the metropolitan areas. It's not a public purpose, certainly raises a question. Advertising at Memorial Stadium, Bob Devaney Sports Center, so many different things that I think we need to address. Civic centers around the state that are used for private purposes. Bank branches on the University campus. There's so many things. I could keep going down the list here and it's...it's tremendous. A situation that I think maybe we should look into, and that is we have the lodging tax that is levied in counties around the state, and the intent of that tax is to raise funds to, in turn, generate more people to stay in the community overnight and spend money in the local communities. And I think we need to ask ourselves the question, does this process enter into a situation where as long as that money is spent to keep people overnight, is that a public purpose? I think we need to clarify those things and, you know, I could keep going down the list here, but in the interest of time I think we know that there are a lot of questions and I really urge my colleagues to support this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Smith. Discussion?  
Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I, too, rise in support for many of the reasons that Senator Smith has just discussed. I think one other issue that I've really been concerned about is some of these leases that are in place, in fact, have to be renegotiated and it certainly takes time for that to work through the process, and I think we have