

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

May 17, 1999

LB 382

I'm going to get it correct this time on what the amendment does. On page 1, and again we're in that intent section of the bill, in line 10, I would put a period after the word "event" and strike the words "for instruction and education of the participants." What this amendment would do is to take away a limiting factor on the types of events that you would have at this convention center. Maybe whoever was drafting the language in the green copy of the bill, from which this language derives, felt that they had to use smoke and mirrors to persuade people to support this bill by suggesting it's going to do all kinds of noble things which it is not the intent to do. So when you leave the words "for instruction and education of the participants" you limit severely the types of gatherings which could be assembled there. Although the motion is one of reconsideration, the other amendment that we had...that I had talked about earlier was different from this one. So if you voted for this amendment, you would not hurt the bill at all. But with the way things are going whether you vote for it or not, it's going to amount to the same thing. So what I think I shall do is continue to discuss this bill, especially the substantive aspects of it because many people, those in Omaha and certainly those on the floor, are unfamiliar with the actual terms of the bill. What needs to be kept in mind throughout this discussion is that we're talking about a strictly local project and this bill is designed to create, for the first time, in statute a scheme whereby you somehow are to fathom how much money is going to be spent by people who come to these events so that you can determine how much in the way of taxation would be generated by that money spent. You will not look just at what the individual participants spend, but you're going to multiply that by at least one and a half and maybe two to arrive at a figure which you are going to say represents the amount of tax revenue generated by the money spent by these participants. As I've said earlier, when we talk about these factors that go into the formula, it is essential that the words which are used in that formula have a clear, precise meaning, and that meaning should be derived from the definitional section. Now if you were going to define the number 3 and the number 1, you could define each one in terms of the other. You could say 3 is thrice the amount of 1. One is one-third the amount...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.