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FLOOR DEBATE

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and it's local control on state terms. And I want to promote tourism more than anyone else, because we already have a lot of things underway. But I think that...well, first of all, this amendment seeks to put this into the county general fund, so then it is truly local control. County board elects whether or not to have the tax, and then the county board has full discretion, full discretion over where those dollars are spent. I would hope that it goes towards tourism, because that is an up and coming industry and does very well in Nebraska, and we need to do more of it so that we can get tax dollars from outstate into Nebraska. And I hope that we can have a discussion on this, because it is an issue that I think is important, that...you know, when we provide local control, let's not attach any strings like that. And so I hope that we can have a useful discussion. I do intend to pull the amendment and investigate the next amendment that I have filed relating to prior debt and how the dollars can be spent. So thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. You've heard the opening on FA1197 to LB 726. Now open for discussion on the Smith amendment to LB 726. Senator Stuthman, followed by nine others.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes. I would like to...thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the body. In the discussion that I just heard on this proposed amendment, the comment was made by the introducer of this amendment, Senator Smith, and I would like to ask him a question, as far as he made the statement that the funds of this would go into the county's general fund. Are you sure of this?

SENATOR ENGEL PRESIDING

SENATOR ENGEL: Senator Smith, you're recognized.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. Senator Stuthman, did you ask if the dollars would go into the county general fund? Yes. That...I guess it's...the amendment is not on the computers yet. On page 2, line 9, it strikes "Visitor Promotion" and says that the proceeds from such tax shall be paid to the county general fund.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: It is my opinion that any of the funds that