

represents in Omaha, Nebraska charges a little over a million dollars to collect the sales tax, the city sales tax, for Omaha. And of course Nebraska collects nearly \$51 million in city sales tax for the various cities across Nebraska that has a city sales tax. And the motel tax....

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: ...Nebraska collects nearly a million and a half dollars to the various counties like Douglas and Lancaster and other counties and so a total they receive for that is 3% or a total of \$34,000. I also passed out a chart on the total tax collected and here it shows in all these studies that all the studies in the various states and I think the lowest study shows that South Carolina pays out 4.2% to collect their sales tax. I have received quite a few letters...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you. I would like to speak a little later.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Howard Peterson is next but before you speak, Senator Peterson, may I introduce as guests of Senator Cal Carsten in the North balcony, 27 fourth grade students from Lincoln Elementary School in Plattsmouth, Nebraska. Wanda Wiemer is their teacher and they have six sponsors. Would you please recognize these students. Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, some of you noticed that I was gone yesterday, spent the day at home, and I just want to say to you that I had a lot of phone calls on this particular matter including the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce or the Executive Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce. The Grand Island Chamber of Commerce has gone on record in opposition to this bill as did all of the people who called me yesterday. All of them were retailers. I think we need to recognize one thing. If we don't want to pay the retailers for doing this job, what is going to happen is, they are going to raise their prices to do the job. Let's just recognize that that is what happens. So there is no point in our trying to say, well, this is an easy way for us to get some dollars. What we are going to really do is just take it away from the person that buys groceries and we talk about taking care of the poor. This is the time when the poor will pay again. I would suggest this, that if we are going to do anything, I might very likely do this if this bill advances. On the next step I would probably move to amend that we put the first figure at 4% and the second figure at 2%. That would