

increase revenue is going to be affected by that fact that Omaha is one and a half percent and I have reached the point where I can find no reason to the policy that I felt was correct for what, 16 years, to continue and rather I now am willing and ready to support that authorization for Lincoln as I was willing and did vote to support the authorization for Senator Pappas' amendment. I think there are some things that also go along with this, by the way, and that is if we get to the allocation of appropriations for whatever as we deal with different legislation, the fact that municipalities have this authorization I think absolutely becomes a factor in any distribution of state appropriated monies. In fact it probably takes municipalities out of the need of appropriations of state funds for new programs. I am not suggesting taking anything away but times being what they are, and I don't mean economic times, but the times of policy, I am willing to support this half percent. I understand very clearly from my district, most of which is outside of Lincoln or much of which is, there will be some adverse effect to that but my opposition has been the one I mentioned from the beginning and I don't believe that that position can no longer be justified and, hence, I am willing to support the half percent increase for Lincoln.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose the bill and the one specific reason I would like to bring forth at this point is that I believe that if this bill does pass the chances of any statewide property tax relief has almost gone down the drain. I remember not too long ago Senator Vard Johnson stood up on this floor and in his very eloquent way said that he had an agenda, he had an agenda for his service in the Legislature, and that agenda included property tax relief. And I think many of us agree that there needs to be property tax relief statewide, but as we continue to chip away at the sales tax base for state purposes, then that funding source for statewide property tax is thereby diminished. I think it is unfair for the rest of the state. I opposed the extra one-half percent for Omaha. I think that was a mistake when that was enacted. I would suggest that the better procedure would be to repeal that half percent that Omaha has. However, that may not be practical, and so at this point, I just would say to you that let's not make a bad situation worse. Let's leave Lincoln at the one percent, the same as the other towns