

should be seeking a policy to encourage business to prosper, develop in the state, and I feel that this particular bill would be hurting businesses in the state. I urge this body not to advance LB 715. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Sieck, then Senator Beutler.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I support LB 715. He is going to knock me over the head here but then it is all right. I believe it is fair. I spend about six to seven dollars a month on my utility bill for sales tax, that means about 75 to 100 dollars a year sales tax just on my utilities and that includes the farm part of it. Why shouldn't the business also pay this, and we have a factor in the bill that if 50 percent of your use of that utility is used for manufacturing purposes you are exempt. So we will not hurt the big manufacturing plants, the big processing plants. They will not be jeopardized by this. Now we heard earlier in the debate that Senator Schmit said some of the plants were closing in Columbus, actually these plants would not have had to pay sales tax with this bill. So I just feel that there are many people out there that are not paying their fair share, and these are the people who say let's raise the sales tax. We are going to hear them say let's hold the line on sales tax and that is what we really need to do. I don't care to have the sales tax be any more, to raise any more. Why...we could tell this morning when we debated 219 this body is ready to give us relief as far as sales tax on repairs and equipment even though their neighboring states are doing it and I am not too ready, personally, because I feel we should pay our fair share, but if you continue raising, escalating that sales tax, I am going to come down here and insist that you give us relief because it is a burden. I know an individual who came to the Revenue Committee that spent over \$600 in sales tax just for his repairs and equipment so you can't tell me a farmer isn't paying a lot of sales tax. Why shouldn't the businessman pay that also? Now he is exempted a lot for new equipment if he is expanding or anything like this, we haven't taken that off. We debated it intensively but the powers to be said no and we took it off. We was considering very much to put that on because we felt that it is not holding new business coming in but they said it will hurt and we don't want to hurt economic conditions in our state. So I do support this. I also want you to know that in this bill, if we have a farm sale, that equipment that is sold at