

hope it works out with Senator Wehrbein...or Senator Warner's Revenue Committee, and I hope they've got it figured out where it really does come back. State aid helps these smaller communities. I guess I'm a little light in the loafers. I really can't see that now as working, but I hope it works out and I hope I have to eat crow on this whole tax package. And if it goes as it looks like it's going to, why I guess we all hope it works out for the best. With that right now, I think I will support the Maurstad amendment for the sake of the little rural towns in Nebraska. Many of us represent them and I can't see the light of the big city but I guess, fortunately or unfortunately, I don't live in Omaha or Lincoln or even Kearney or North Platte. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I also rise to support the Maurstad amendment. I think it's a very good compromise. When we discussed these bill in the Revenue Committee, there's probably no entity that had me more concerned of any political subdivision than the small towns because I think that LB 1114 affects small towns worse than any other entity in this state. Some people say, well, schools are affected, too. But I don't think this body is going to let schools go downhill. Small towns are something that a lot of people in this body think, well, I'm not from a small town, we really don't need small towns, but we really do. If you're from a rural area, small towns are very important to this state. Every small town has probably an over abundance of elderly people in it. Those people are not going to vote to increase their budget. They're on a fixed income, the biggest share of them, and they're not going to vote to increase a town budget. Young people will not stay in that small town. They're going to say, well, I'm not going to stay here. I'm going to a town that has a city sales tax. They have low property taxes. They have a very small property tax because they have that...that sales tax that they can raise some revenue from. A small town, a sales tax wouldn't raise anything. You wouldn't raise enough, like Senator Cudaback said, to mow the grass. There's nothing in these small towns basically any more except houses. But they're very important to this state, and when you're cutting