

last five years. I firmly oppose the amendment and then it is time to kill the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, did you wish to speak to...? And then Senator Nichol, you're next.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, by now you might of deduced that the amendment would pretty effectively kill the original purpose and intent of the bill and so I am not real keen on the amendment to the amendment. The amendment that I offered was a product of the Governor's office. Mr. Chesen, representing the Department of Economic Development who strongly supports it, the way it is now drafted. You might be interested in knowing Mr. Chesen was the leader in the previous years of the opposition to the lodging tax but because of the system that has been implemented, the restrictions on it, so on and so forth, he now sees this as something fundamental to the tourist industry of the state. Mr. Chesen, as you know, used to be head of the Villager and before that I think he ran the Cornhusker for a number of years. Mr. Cleveland out in York who owns the Camelot Inn, a very close friend of mine, one of the strongest leaders in the past against the lodging tax but because of the realities they realized that this may be the best way to hold together and develop effectively the tourism industry in the state but to reply to Senator Dworak and others' impressions or implications that this is another tax, they are absolutely right. I am going to be up front about it. It is a lodging tax paid by people that stay in motels and hotels. I urge you to reject the amendment of Senator Dworak because it would completely wipe out the whole thing.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I wish that Senator Fowler were here. Here we go again. Senator Dworak, you are very berevolent when you call this an old horse. It isn't an old horse. It's an old dog and let's call it by what it is. It's a funny thing. The areas where this would benefit are gung ho for this bill. The areas where I live where they would not benefit, they are not so gung ho for it. I notice that that the Chambers of Commerce are in favor of it. The Chamber of Commerce in my cities has not come out for it. Neither have the motel and hotel operators but as far as the amendment is concerned, it has to be better than the bill because the bill is no good to start with. But to fragment a situation like this as the bill is to start