

put a 6½% tax on motel rooms I do not want to erode the state sales tax base any farther. Let's put it on, if you want to put it on and if you think we should be collecting this 3½% for those approximate 46% of the people who come from outstate, that is fine but I also think you had better start thinking of those peddlers, and I know what it was because I have travelled most of my life coming out of Omaha and Lincoln, who sell their wares out in outstate Nebraska and I think of companies like Union Pacific and their workers and the ramifications on those people who are forced to live in motel rooms, that is fine. If, in fact, we think we want to raise this motel tax now to 6½% that is just fine but let's put the money in the general fund. Senator Powers says that the money should go to professionals. Well we can allocate more money to the Department of Economic Development through the legislative process. I would just be more comfortable with elected officials making these decisions, statewide elected officials making these decisions than some anonymous small board, some Chamber of Commerce group out in Columbus or out in Lexington or out in North Platte or where ever. We are talking about state tax base. That is what we are talking about. It is another erosion. I notice we have another bill in here this session to take the 1% away from cities, based on the argument that we have eroded the state tax base. I think that is a legitimate argument. I think we have made that mistake in the past. I think we have got ourselves in the position where it is hard to get out of. Let's not perpetuate and constantly duplicate the same mistakes. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The question before the House is the adoption of the amendment to the amendment to the DeCamp amendment on LB 499. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Twelve are excused, Senator Dworak. Senator Dworak, I think we will just save time if you go ahead and make the motion. You don't want to? All right. Record the vote.

CLERK: 12 ayes, 15 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. We are now back to the DeCamp amendment. We had Senator Simon and Senator Clark has not returned. I don't know if he wants to talk. Senator Simon, you may speak on the motion itself. Yes, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SIMON: I was trying to go through the amendments which are now the bill or being drafted as the bill and I