

Small Business Council members from the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. They are up here in the North balcony with Mike Dishman, the director. Would they stand and be recognized by the Legislature? Would you folks stand and, welcome to your Legislature. The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, we trot the bill back again, back in the rotunda to see if we can slice off another one of the special interest groups. Now we have cut in the counties. We have given them their pound of flesh and that picks out another three, four, five senators that are very sympathetic to that point of view but the bill still essentially does two things that are wrong. It erodes the state's tax base, number one, and, number two, we are raising taxes for those Nebraskans that must travel and stay in their own motels. Now Senator DeCamp would like to lead us to believe with his map that the only people staying in motels in the State of Nebraska are out of state people and we all know this just isn't so. The majority of rooms rented in the State of Nebraska are for Nebraskans themselves. So you are raising taxes and if you think the public is in a mood to have their taxes raised in any form, I think you are reading that public wrong. I think you are reading them dead wrong. I think they want less taxes, not more taxes, and that is essentially what we are doing and you know, being a business man, when I wanted to attract new business I always raised my prices. This attracts it faster than anything I know and that is just essentially what we are doing. We are raising the motel prices 3%. I think we also have to remember that motels rooms are already paying 3½% tax or people renting rooms are paying 3½% tax. This raises it to 6½%, and in Lincoln and in Omaha and in Omaha where they have another percent and a half you are raising it to 7%. The bill has not changed. The basic principle that you are violating has not changed. It is the same piece of legislation with just a slightly different wrinkle. We've put a carrot out to the counties to gain their support. It is still wrong in principle. The bill has been defeated for five years. It has failed to advance twice this session. I think you should be consistent and you should stay with your previous vote and refuse not to advance this LB 499.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, Senator DeCamp says this is the Phoenix. I would just like to suggest to you that the Phoenix hasn't been gone a thousand years. It is not time to revive it yet. In the meantime, I think what it is doing, quite frankly, is it just makes this bill stink.