

the sales tax for the City of Omaha, an issue that was born in the need of that city for additional revenues and a method of financing them other than their normal resources. With that precedent which was created over many of our objections, my own included, this body agreed that in the event the voters of that city would take it upon themselves, the sales tax increase, that they would be free to do so. Now that is what the City of Lincoln has come asking you for this session. We were down in the Revenue Committee we brought in our finance director, our mayor, our city services and went over with them and their future with the Revenue Committee. We made ourselves open to their questions, in essence, we opened our books to the committee to show them our need for this tool as part of our own financial planning in the City of Lincoln. That committee agreed that the full body of the Legislature should consider the issue of extending that precedent to another city that had made a good faith showing of its need for this tool of financial planning and its willingness to approach its own citizenry to authorize that tax increase. This body has seen fit for whatever motivation, most of them genuine I'm sure, to add cities of the first class. I have been bound by the policy that I have advocated in supporting that amendment. In good faith I have stuck by that commitment when there were 24 votes to strike the Peterson amendment I did not add mine to 26. I believe in the commitment that I gave Howard Peterson and there are those who have said, this policy is a reasonable one and since you have used it on behalf of your own city don't you think it is fair to apply to us. I stood by that commitment even perhaps to the eventual prejudice of my own making, but I lived up to what I think is a fair and equitable policy decision for this body to make. The City of Lincoln faces declining federal funds. It has a city charter lid that is over and above whatever the states might wish to enact for a city lid. It will not go away even if we revoke our own lid at the state level. We want these funds for our own local planning for our infrastructure for our mass transit funds and we are prepared to go to our citizens asking for their support. I would ask you to help us do that. I would like to yield one-half minute. . . .

SENATOR LAMB: One minute, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: . . .one half minute of that to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature,