

profligate spending? The answer is clearly "no". In the last four and a half years, Lincoln has had a 6 percent population increase. The number of our city employees has dropped 6 percent in the same time. The distinction then is that while our population has gone up, our city employees have gone down and there is a 12 percent difference between the two. We have been circumspect in our budgeting and our performance. We still retain quality services in Lincoln and we are proud of them. Civil Engineering Magazine, the nation's publication for National Society of Civil Engineers recognize Lincoln's Public Works Department as one of the five best in the country. The Harvard Business Review article by Peter Drucker on entrepreneurship, the relationship of private and public sector relationships, indicated that Lincoln as a municipality has pioneered the effort to couple better service at lower cost with the use of private enterprise. We have gone to our citizens to ask for volunteer service. In the summer we have put in a list of things that the city could use, either as donations of equipment or donations of service. People have volunteered to ride on tractors and to mow the lawns of our parks without the use of paid people to perform those functions. We have done a good job of maintaining our city, of keeping its services high, of keeping our budget low, of keeping within a surplus, but we simply face the challenge of New Federalism and we need a new tool to respond. That is what LB 116 is going to do for us. I hope that you will vote for the bill and move it on to Select File.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose LB 116 and I don't think that comes as any great surprise to probably my good friend Senator Landis but I would like to point out that it is our responsibility as state legislators to provide a mechanism for all the people of this state to enjoy the services of government, and I think we have done that fairly well except that we have at the same time punched some major holes in it. And in my opinion, the allowance of local entities of government to issue their own sales tax is one of those major holes to start with. By adding more abilities to those local entities to have a greater sales tax is going to diminish and dilute the pressure that we have on us as a state to try to deal with the problems of the property taxpayer all across this state. I think we have already done it in