

passed with the emergency clause, the City of Lincoln will have the opportunity to go to its voters and ask for that to happen. A special election costs thousands and thousands of dollars. This is a regular election, the first opportunity to put it on the ballot and educate the citizens. I would ask that we have 25 votes to attach the E clause. When this measure finally gets passed on we will see whether it has the right number of votes or not to sustain it there. But at least give us the opportunity to pursue the avenue of a May election date in Lincoln, saving us thousands of dollars in special election costs, or limiting the number of times we will have to go and ask the citizens and educate them about this bill.

PRESIDENT: The motion is to add the E clause to the bill. The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely. Did you wish to speak on this motion? Senator Rod Johnson, do you wish to speak on this motion?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I rise first of all to oppose this bill. Since this is a motion that will give me an opportunity to speak, I want everyone to know my reasoning for opposing the bill, most of all the sponsors of the bill, senators from Lincoln. What we continue to hear I guess in the last few weeks especially is we've got some very difficult choices to make with our budgets and things that are affecting both urban people and rural people. My thinking is we've got to make some of those decisions, especially in the budgetary process. In this case we are asking for it immediately. I know that the voters of Lincoln have to approve of it. But the fact of the matter is there are an awful lot of people in my district, and I'm sure around the state, that will continue to pay that extra half cent sales tax. I don't, first of all, like the idea of municipalities having that option. But I assume that they have budgetary problems. We do here at the state level and it is making it difficult for us. But I just want people to know that I think we have to make some tough choices. This is not the time nor the year, I guess, to be asking people to commit more dollars to support more taxes. I'm going to take as conservative a stand this year as ever because I think that this is a unique year that we are going through. If it is Lincoln or if it is the state budget that we are talking about, I hope to take the most conservative stand possible. I'll make some tough decisions on some tough bills, but I won't make them at the expense of raising