

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the tax is a sales tax. Think about it. It's imposed at the time a piece of property is sold, and the way it is collected, it is collected just like a motor vehicle sales tax is collected by the county clerk or the registerer of deeds on that transfer. It is a sales tax. Now sales taxes go to the state unless there is a local option in which case a portion of the sales tax goes to the city. It is not a property tax. It is not a property tax because while the measure of the tax is the value of the property, like a sales tax, the tax doesn't vary in accordance with any local levy. There is no local levy applied to the value of the property. It is just simply \$1.50 per \$1,000 of value. It is a statewide tax rate and it is a sales tax. I don't know what Senator DeCamp has in mind on this bill. I kind of think this may be a precursor to a bank tax bill that is going to deal with such a thing as a deposit tax and money going into a county. Maybe Senator DeCamp, as he alludes to the fact that he has to practice but in fact one should not be beguiled or coused or tricked into taking what normally generates for the State of Nebraska approximately \$2 million a year and just willy-nilly turning it over to the counties. Interestingly enough if it was a property tax it should be turned over not just to the counties but to the cities, to the schools, to the NRDs, to every other local subdivision, should it not? But it's not a property tax. It is a sales tax, affected on transfers of real estate done through a document, collected by either the county clerk or the registerer of deeds. As simple as that. Bad amendment, costs the state money, should not happen.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members, I rise to support the bill. I guess I'm a little bit unsure why Senator Chambers would oppose it because as I see it this is a rich people's tax, not a poor people's tax. More of the rich people buy property than there are poor people. So it seems to me that this would be one that he could support and I could support. We would then be on the same wave-length and the bill might pass.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Haberman.