

maintenance of the school, paying part of the tuition for those that can't afford it, the only break that we get from the State of Nebraska in the form of aid is that we are exempt on the sales tax on purchases. I think Senator Withem did a splendid job of explaining just why this amendment should be passed. What we are doing, we are telling the churches and the schools, and I remind you again, we get no state aid, we get no help from the State of Nebraska, this is the only, the only thing that we do get from the state is the exemption on the sales tax. When they go and St. Stan's, for instance, my church, just recently put new asphalt on the playground and the parking lot. If this was in effect, this bill as it stands now, the church would have to go out and buy the concrete and the asphalt or whatever materials they use to do that parking lot, and it costs thousands and thousands of dollars to do a large playground and a parking lot, and we would get the sales tax exempted if we went out and bought that concrete or asphalt ourselves instead of the contractor doing it, because if the contractor does it, he is going to have to pay the sales tax and he is going to have to raise the cost of asphaltting that playground. So I ask you to approve of this amendment and eliminate some of the paperwork because the state isn't going to gain anything because my little church, and it is a very poor church and school, will go out and buy that material rather than pay that 5 percent sales tax on it. It just makes it very difficult when asking a contractor to bid on the job and say that, well, we will pay for the materials direct because we have an exemption number and you can no longer buy that material tax free unless I buy it direct. So it is not going to gain the state that much money. We are only asking you to give us back our exemption or let us keep that exemption on materials that are used in building a school, building a church, building a playground or a parking lot, anything that we have to pay for because, as I said, we get no help from the state whatsoever and I ask you to approve and attach LB 715 Senator Withem's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, did you wish to speak to the Withem amendment.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I am going to oppose the Withem amendment but my opposition is not going to be extraordinarily vigorous. I am going to indicate the basic story on the Withem amendment. It goes