

assure you they would be higher than they are right now. I don't think there is that much wrong with saying we're going to pay sales tax on those utilities. If the fact that you're going to pay sales taxes on your utilities is going to drive business out of this state or it is going to determine whether they come in here or not, I don't think that they really want to be here very bad anyhow. I think they were probably losing some money on some other sources anyway. The sales tax on utilities, and I think that I can speak with a little bit of authority because it takes an awful lot of heat to run a farrowing operation. That sales tax is not what is causing us to lose money. That sales tax is not going to be the determining factor. A lot of other things go into that and not the sales taxes that are paid. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Haberman, then Senator Chronister, then Senator Abboud. Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'm not going to speak very long about this bill. I can see that there is still a fair amount of opposition to the bill coming from senators such as Chris Abboud and who knows from what other corners the opposition may surface. It's easy to be an opponent. It's easy to be an opponent to a tax bill. It's hard to be an opponent to a spending measure. The truth of the matter is, government runs on revenue. Now I know that there are folk in the rotunda who don't like to admit it, but government runs on revenue. The primary source of revenue is taxes. We will have no economic climate in which businesses in our state can swim in the absence of taxes because we will have no educational system, no roads system, no government. We will live in a state of anarchy, in a state of chaos. Very simply we have to have tax money. The primary focus of LB 715 is the imposition for the first time in Nebraska of a sales tax on certain utility services purchased by certain commercial and retail operations. That part of the bill will generate about \$15 million additional dollars in revenue for the state. Frankly, the dollar amount for most businesses is relatively modest, but that is the primary focus of LB 715. Our sister states, again if you have saved your Revenue booklet that we passed out a week or so ago, you will discover that virtually all of the sister states around Nebraska impose this kind of tax, but way back when