

city sales tax. It has been amended so now they can have 1 1/2 percent city sales tax. I told Senator Vard Johnson after that bill advanced that if that was going to happen I was going to fight for every exemption I can get for those of us that don't live inside of an incorporated city or village because I think this Legislature is making a decision, consciously or unconsciously, that we are going to broaden the tax base but only for certain purposes, only for certain uses and, quite frankly, only for certain people. Now I am a resident of the State of Nebraska. Now I will willingly pay the taxes necessary to operate the State of Nebraska. I will willingly broaden the tax base if necessary to pay for the operations of the State of Nebraska, but I object to broadening the tax base to pay for operations of something that I am not a resident of. So I want you to understand, I am going to vote to advance LB 219, not necessarily based on the fact that I think it is good tax policy because I don't think it is. I don't think it is good tax policy in terms of the operations of the state, but it is the only thing I can do if we are going to use the sales tax to help support every city or village of this state. Now I know there are those people who will say, well, you rural people come to the towns and you use our parks and use our streets and use our libraries. I will remind you, the reason we come to town is to buy something from those folks in town. So it seems to me we are all in this situation together. If they are willing to give up their local option to sales tax, then I am willing to give up this exemption. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I agree with several of the preceding speakers, Senator Vickers, Senator Rod Johnson, and Senator Arlene Nelson, and others. This is not the kind of bill upon which agriculture will rise or fall. It is not the kind of bill which will determine whether or not Nebraska farmers remain in operation. Senator Vickers has said, half percent off the interest rate would probably amount to one heck of a lot more than this bill will do. I want to just point out that, you know, Senator Vard Johnson, it is kind of...it couldn't happen to a more deserving guy, you happen to be Chairman of the Revenue Committee at a time when it is tough to find sources of revenue, and you have historically been one of my good friends on a number of issues where we spend some money, but