

Nebraska. You know, I have got an institution of higher learning in my district that many of you have been interested in trying to protect, trying to help keep open, the school at Curtis. The fact of the matter is the school at Curtis is going to be in jeopardy until we somehow or other are able to provide enough funds to make certain that it stays open and that is a fact of life. And I have told the people at Curtis that and they know it and they understand it. So I have a real problem with on the one hand saying, you know, we need these institutions in agriculture, we need these services, on the other hand, we are not willing to pay our share of the taxes. But the reason I am going to vote to advance this bill is because I also believe that Senator Vard Johnson is right when he says...when he talks about the fact that our tax structure had ought to be as fair and as equitable as possible. Senator Jerry Warner just told you a little bit ago that there is a large percentage of agricultural purchases out of the City of Omaha and the City of Omaha has an extra one and a half cent sales tax to help operate the City of Omaha. Guess who is helping pay for it? As long as we are going to continue to go down the road of increasing local option sales tax capabilities, as long as we are going to have certain segments of this society saying we are going to have a sales tax for our purpose and we are going to apply it to everybody else that comes in and buys something from us, then you can expect those of us that are able to have that or take advantage of that local sales tax option to not want to have our purchases on that sales tax list. And if that affects the state's rate, if that affects the state's abilities, then so be it. We had ought to all understand that. But if you want me to pay your local option sales tax, then you had ought not to expect me to try to continue to leave all of the base on on the state tax rates as well. So what I am telling you is that in our quest to allow that expansion of that local option, we are damaging our state's base. There were arguments made when that bill was up on the floor and this is the proof of it. I wouldn't be voting for the advancement of this bill if it wasn't for that other bill and I want to make it very clear. So if you are going to continue that erosion, that erosion of the sales tax, then you had ought to be...expect it, then you ought to be expecting the erosion in the area of those instances raised in LB 219 as well. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Vickers. Senator