

SENATOR PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. President, colleagues, if anybody is listening. If we want to talk about total tax equity and fairness among the rural sector and the urban sector, I would like to point out that several years ago this body passed and put on the ballot what they called Amendment 4 for valuation. And because of that, because of that in 1985 there was \$12.5 billion in ag valuation, total. It was a loss of 13.2 percent, 13.2 percent because of Amendment 4. That relayed down to a \$1.5 billion. What that did was shift, was shifted the levy for NRDs, ESUs, et cetera, back to the urban taxpayer, the urban taxpayer. We took it away from agriculture. Agriculture did no longer have to pay that because of the special break this body helped give. That related to \$7.5 million, \$7.5 million, Howie, that the country people no longer have to pay. That is without LB 796 that we had recently passed that gave another little break to the tech colleges where in essence they could shift that money, they could shift that money and the extra levy they needed, back to the urban payer. So when we talk about tax equity, let's look at the true picture. This is also by a vote of the people. This is by a vote of the people. This is not mandated, or it does not automatically go into effect. I think we should not vote for the kill...vote the kill motion down and advance this bill to give the rest of the state the same opportunities that Omaha and Lincoln now possess.

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud, do you wish to speak? The motion is to indefinitely postpone LB 890.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise to support Senator Lamb's motion to indefinitely postpone LB 890. When the bill was originally introduced to this body by Senator Sieck I felt it was a good bill. As a matter of fact, I got up and I supported the bill on the floor, I said it was a very good bill explaining to the voters what exactly the benefits of a sales tax would be. And I think that is important to educate the public on why you are increasing taxes. But the bill was expanded on General File to include increasing the sales tax that can be levied by smaller class cities, first and second classes. Now, I represent an area that includes the City of Omaha and also a first class city, the City of Ralston. At this time, I haven't received any calls from constituents demanding an increase in the sales tax. I haven't received any calls demanding an increase in the sales tax from my local elected officials representing the city, either the mayor or the city council. So I see no need, at this time, to go ahead and