

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members, I told Senator Vickers yesterday I would take this, but I've lost my voice overnight. I just want to make a point and I want to emphasize the fact that this is Senator Vickers' proposal, not mine. I believe this amendment...and he provided me with some examples of a green card which he thought any farmer ought to be able to get, then when he went to the city or the municipality, he could show his green card and he wouldn't have to pay that tax. I think that's sort of what Howard Lamb had in mind and it sounds like a pretty good idea to me, but I wanted to extend it, of course, to Omaha and Lincoln, of course, because they were the innovators of this entire idea and they probably collect far more from rural residents than they would over at Anselmo or Bellwood. So with that explanation of the amendment, Mr. President, I ask permission to withdraw the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The amendment is withdrawn. Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lamb would move to amend. (Lamb amendment appears on page 1909 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, this amendment would extend the sales taxing ability to the counties. As it is now, you know, the counties don't get any revenue from the city sales tax and, as we mentioned before, of course, all the residents of the county outside of the incorporated areas do not get to vote on it. With this amendment it would be my intent that if we're going to have a local option sales tax, we should let the counties get in on the deal. That way everybody in the county gets to vote on it. Everybody in the county then gets the revenue. The revenue would go for county purposes. All the people in the county would be involved in both voting for the additional sales tax and would be beneficiaries of the tax. The situation we have now, of course, is that people outside of the incorporated areas do not vote on the sales tax. People outside of the incorporated areas do not get the benefits of what is supposed to be a reduced property tax because of the local option sales tax. So it seems to me that this is an unfair situation, that if we are, as it seems, headed toward the program of increasing these cities' sales tax as a local option, then we should extend this also to the counties. Essentially, that is what the amendment is aimed to do, that we have a local