

Revenue, is this, the amendment is likely to result in a slippage on the fiscal note to 715 between 50 percent and 66 2/3 percent. In other words, when one looks at one's green sheet, which I have in my hand, and when one turns it over and finds the fiscal note to 715, one will see a fiscal note of \$11,300,000. The Department of Revenue suggests...that is how much this bill will gain for us. The Department of Revenue suggests that with the Remmers amendment that figure should be revised downward to about \$5 million. Now, mind you, this bill started out as a \$40 million bill for a full year and there has been a little whittle here and a little chunk there. It's like starting out with a pine branch and finally we are down to the toothpick. That maybe is all that we have the backbone to muster. But the Department of Revenue says the Remmers amendment has a very, very significant effect on the dollars to be received by LB 715. So I am telling you, colleagues, if the amendment is placed on the bill and the bill is advanced, you should immediately inform your constituents that you are voting a tax increase for them. That is the bottom line. The bottom line is that our income tax rates or our sales tax rates will have to go up, will have to go up if this amendment comes on. It is as simple as that. Number three, with respect to my second question to the Department of Revenue which was, what do our sister states do with the issue raised by Senator Remmers? The Department of Revenue reminded me again of something that we forget. All of our sister states impose a sales tax on energy consumed by business, by retailers and commercial business ventures. They all do. Nebraska is the only exception. None of our sister states have this kind of measuring stick that Senator Remmers would offer, none do. All of our sister states impose a more significant sales tax on energy consumption by business than is proposed in 715 without the Remmers amendment. So when one talks about business climate one should remember that the business climate in Nebraska, with respect to this little, tiny tax issue,...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...has been more favorable than any of our sister states, more favorable, and that even with the change made by 715 it will still be more favorable on this one tiny issue than our sister states. All that is happening is that an organization that has fought this bill bitterly from day one is coming back for that final fight