

that income tax with. At this time, I support a no tax increase. I do not support a 1 percent state income tax increase, nor do I support a quarter of a percent sales tax increase. But let's let the economy improve a little and then go ahead and give the state employees a wage increase. So I would support Senator Schmit's amendment at this time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hannibal, then Senator Harris.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: I call the question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Schmit, you may close, but may I introduce some guests of Senator Hartnett, please. Under the south balcony we have eight members of the Bellevue Womens Club, Bellevue, Nebraska. Would you please stand and be recognized, ladies. Thank you. Senator Schmit, to close on your motion.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the body, you know, it is kind of an unfortunate position in which I place myself when I offer this amendment because it is absolutely a no-win situation. I do not do it lightly and I do not do it out of malice. I do not do it out of PIR nor any other personal kind of motivation. I do it because I am sincerely motivated by the fact that the dollars are not going to be there to provide for the state salary increase as proposed without a tax increase and I do not believe that we can afford a state tax increase in the income tax area. We have been told, many of you have been told by Omaha and Lincoln businessmen that if you increase the state income tax again, that you further drive out of the state some of the highest salaried people who bring to the state a lot of skill, a lot of expertise and, in fact, many other businesses. You know more about that than I do. We are not in that kind of a salary bracket in Saunders County, I can tell you that. Senator Wesely referred to morale. I can tell you something about morale, Senator Wesely, that you probably would learn if you would go back to your old home grounds at Butler County. The morale in Butler County is as low as it has