

the options that would be available otherwise. So I would oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, I certainly support the action of the Revenue Committee, part of that committee and part of this whole debate. If you remember last week, we were given that task to come up with some sort of a funding solution to the problem. That is exactly what we tried to do. I am sure that we have as deep a concern for the economy as any of you in this body, those of us on the Revenue Committee, and I have not believed the reports that we have been getting from the so-called experts in the east, and I guess our projections are as good as theirs. But I think this is an honest upright approach to the problem. When Senator DeCamp got up, he said he had four reasons, I had an idea what the four reasons were, and the four reasons were over in the northeast corner of this building. But we were supposed to put together a package. We voted the other day to bring out a cigarette tax measure of 2 cents a pack. Whether that will stick, we don't know. We brought out a measure that would raise the corporate tax. We don't know whether that is going to stick. But in order to come up with anywhere near the amount of funding that is even in the Governor's budget or in the Appropriations Committee budget, there really is no other way to do it but to come up with at least a 1 percent increase in our personal income tax. As you know, we thought about this in the Special Session and I guess I hate to say, I told you so, but exactly what has happened, what we predicted, those of us that were on that side of the issue, just exactly. We are in a bind. We have already lost whatever money that would have brought in had we done something about it in the Special Session, putting us even in a bigger bind, and if we don't face the issue now we are just going to dig ourselves a bigger hole as we go into this recession, depression, whatever it is going to turn out to be. You talk about the Board of Equalization, I think the Board of Equalization advocated its authority when it did face up to the subject last fall. I know it is a political year and I hear political overtones in the speeches that were just made, but I urge you to be realistic and do what is right for the State of Nebraska, and if we do not face up to this issue on an overall basis with several different tax increases or changes, we are just not going to have anywhere near the money it is going to take to run this state, and it is just plain folly not to face up to the