

don't even know whether they are going to be adopted or not, but the way I understand this body and serving on the Rules Committee, the idea was that we establish a spending pattern early in the session in order to determine what most of us thought we would be able to spend and how much we would be able to bring in to the Revenue Department. The Revenue Committee has worked very closely with the Appropriations Committee this year, probably closer than it ever has before. I think you heard this from the two chair people from those two entities. So what we are doing in trying to establish a floor of 16 percent is trying to keep that funding at a constant level, and Senator DeCamp keeps talking about an increase in taxes. I think that is a theory that a lot of people are trying to promote which is a fallacy. We are not increasing taxes. The World Herald had a good article on it last week that explained it very clearly. We are still not collecting the amount of money that we would have had the federal government not decided to cut taxes. So I think this is the only natural thing to do at this time, otherwise we are going to have to have a drastic budget cut rather than an increase as Senator DeCamp is talking about. We are already late with this. This is a past business that should have been taken care of, and if we do not change that as of January 1st of this year we are going to have a shortfall that we will never catch up with, and I have talked about this before. And I just can't understand why we are so set in trying to throttle the budget through the Revenue Committee. You can do that anytime you want to. Right now we need that extra money, not in next year's budget necessarily. We have a shortfall in our income and the longer we put it off the worse it is going to be, and I still do not believe it was the intention of the people of Nebraska that we lower their taxes at the same time we lower the federal...or the federal taxes were lowered. It just doesn't make sense when you are going to bring government home to the people. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This proposed amendment has my complete support for it is not a tax increase, it is a tax rate adjustment. It will not cover all of the loss currently in place in the State of Nebraska for our income tax has been ~~playbacked~~ on the federal income tax. Again, I reiterate, it is not a tax increase from last year, it is a tax rate adjustment for the federal taxes have been reduced and the state is already short dollars coming into the State Treasury because of that action. The state is additionally short because of the