

know is right and not try to see who we are going to put the blame on or how are we going to keep from getting the blame for doing those things that we all know need to be done. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I just wanted to make a couple of short comments. First of all to thank Senator Carsten and Senator Warner for the work that they have done on this issue. I think there can be no doubt but that through their efforts the consciousness of the Legislature and the consciousness of the people of the State of Nebraska to the financial crisis that we are facing has been increased significantly, has been increased a great deal. And on the previous two attempts to increase the tax rate on this floor, I have voted in favor of it, but I have to say, quite frankly, that I am tired of this game that we are playing now. I think that the public information function that is the primary objective, or at least I have assumed has been the primary objective of these...of this continuing series of amendments, has been performed and that we all are now aware of the situation. And I think it is time to take note of what Senator Nichol and others have made quite clear. If you and I in the Legislature later on today vote on the Appropriations resolution, we will have an opportunity at that time to vote for more or less spending. There is an amendment to that resolution which proposes from the Appropriations Committee which proposes to add \$15 million of spending to the basic resolution. You and I will be voting on that. If we vote for the additional \$15 million, we all know we are voting for an increase in the tax rate. Then after the Legislature meets in our normal procedure, as has been pointed out, the Board of Equalization has the administrative duty of correcting the tax rates to fit the spending that the Legislature has adopted. So the system is already there. We need only follow the system that we have been following for years and years. Senator Barrett said, this Legislature needs to take the responsible action, and other members of the Legislature talk about taking the responsible action, and I agree indeed we do need to take the responsible action, but we take that action by a vote on the expenditures, not by creating a new system whereby we vote on the tax rates. Think a minute about the assumption that is being made when we say that the Legislature must take the responsible action by voting on the tax rate. What we are saying in effect is, we don't believe the Governor is going to take the