

April 1, 1982

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SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Fenger in his amendment for a number of reasons. Number one, I would like to call your attention to Dave Landis' figures. He doesn't say anything in here about any of the perquisites that people have. He doesn't say anything about health care or anything else. The figures that I have tell me that our employees, everything included, have increased their salaries and the additional things we have offered them in the last three years 35 percent. Now that is not bad to my way of thinking. I think we have done pretty well by them. I don't think it is unreasonable for us to ask them to hold for a year in times as tough as they are now. Out in Grand Island we have a number of manufacturing operations. New Holland to date has had to lay off 345 people. I ask any of you in this room, how many of you would like to be one of those 345 people that don't have any salary at all, period? How would you like to be the members of Safeway, the employees of Safeway? How would you like to be the employees of the Gamble Stores at North Platte and at Grand Island where the stores are being closed? I think we have got to recognize, as Senator Kahle has said, we are in really tough straits. I would suggest that some of you go back and talk to our Revenue Department and find out how much money they had to give back to savings and loans in this state. There wasn't a single savings and loan in this state that made any money this past year. We had to refund money back to them. That is a tremendous amount of money that we had to refund back because they could go back on the basis of the federal income tax and on the basis of the state income tax. So I think we need to be realistic in this day and age, and I think what Senator Fenger has offered is a realistic solution to part of the problem. I am not saying it is a solution to all of the problem, but if I had my rathers I think when we got all through we would cut 5 percent off of everything. I think we may have to before we are through. I think we are in the toughest period we have had since the 1930's. I see farm sales all over central Nebraska. Now if you would like to be in the farm machinery business and have twelve farm sales in the area selling machinery competing with you, how would you feel? Senator Goll sits back here in the car business. How many car businesses do you think have closed up in Nebraska this year? How many do you think will close next year? How many of you think the homebuilders are still building houses? Those of us who went to that luncheon the other night found out what a tough job they are having. I just say to you, it is a lot tougher than many of us think and we ought to be real happy to have a job in this economy.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner.

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