

If we get into a problem next year, we will solve it in January and February. Let's don't try to use that as an excuse to do something this year. We are down here. Let's wind this thing up. Let's push this bill on to Select File and let's go home. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I also arise to oppose the Warner amendment to the budget bill presented by the Governor but I rise to oppose it for different reasons than Senator Haberman has just expressed. My opposition is based on a number of different factors. First let me tell you that I think the original bill as introduced, LB 8, would be a disaster in a number of areas in the State of Nebraska. It is a bad proposal and one which we should not pass in this Legislature. Similarly though Senator Warner's amendments to the bill do not deal with those particular areas that I consider to be especially disastrous. So I don't see where the advantage is found in adopting the amendment proposed by Senator Warner. What am I speaking of as far as disaster? I will use one example and that example is the University of Nebraska. We are faced with an increased enrollment. We are faced with overflows in our classrooms. We are faced with registration that has been made, faculty that have been hired, commitments that have been agreed to, and now at this point nearly midway through the fiscal year we are about to cut their budget by what is supposedly three percent but which is really about a six percent cut because we are about midway through the fiscal year which means I don't know how they are going to be able to adjust and not have some sort of a, I think, diminishment and certainly a degradation of quality at that institution. But the Warner cut does not deal with that issue nor with other state agencies similarly hit very hard by this cut proposed by Governor Thone. I think there are other alternatives to both the Thone and Warner proposals that would I think better benefit the State of Nebraska. Now first off I think that you have to decide for yourself what attitude you are going to take as far as tax rates. Governor Thone has proposed no increase in tax rates. Senator Warner has informed us that an increase in the tax rates of one percent is not really an increase in revenue. It is an adjustment to bring in the same amount of revenue. Well, I think that is absolutely correct. It isn't really a tax increase and I agree with him on that point but you try and explain that to the public. You have articles such as Senator Schmit has passed around saying that Senator Warner is for higher taxes which is not really the case but the public sees that and the public reacts