

away, and then we will be back in here next year or the year after with a shortage of revenue. We will either be raising taxes or cutting again, and we have talked about what fun it was to cut before, and so my preference this year, frankly, and it is in a number of newspapers that my preference this year would be to do infrastructure because there is a need to do a number of infrastructure kinds of items and so that I have supported infrastructure development across the state. We have an opportunity to do some good things in the state which I would say are not just bricks and mortar, but everyone of these things in one way or the other serve the people of Nebraska, and so I think they are justifiable. But the main concern that I keep harping on in here is the notion of building a sustainable budget, and I think some of those other things that we would all like to see in there, I think the real test comes down to, are we willing to generate the revenue to sustain some of those things? We can keep ourselves out of trouble and do the state some good this year by making investments in infrastructure, and if we go beyond that and start building lots of new programs, and I am perfectly willing, I have voted already. I will put the necessary tax revenue out there to guarantee that the relief found in LB 84 continues. I am willing to vote for that tax increase but...

PRESIDENT: Time

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...I cannot say that there are 24 others out there who will join me, or 30, if need be. So that is my rationale for pushing capital construction this time is it is something we can do a lot of good things in the state. I think we have done a reasonable job of equitably distributing those benefits statewide and it will keep us out of financial trouble in the next year or two. So that is my rationale. I will be happy to come back and talk about individual items on there at anytime anybody wants to start on those. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schimek is next, followed by Senator Hefner, but I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Wesely, please. In the north balcony, we have 19 first graders from Meadowlane School in Lincoln, Nebraska, with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Schimek, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, and members of the body, Senator Korshoj, may I ask you a question.