

Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, and Senator Crosby, and Senator Crosby, first thing I have to do is say that accepting Senator Crosby's characterization of her remarks exactly as she makes it today, I have to apologize for overstating what I claimed you said yesterday about people in your area loving to pay the sales tax. Now that is as much as I can do. Okay. I still say that Senator Schrock and Senator Robinson indicated that the people in their areas love to pay the sales tax, and if you come up there, they will show you the people who say that. What Senator Crosby had said, and she can correct me on this, is that businesses are in business to make a profit, and you can cut too much into their profit. And I don't think so, when the alternative is to overburden the poor as this national study indicates is being done in Nebraska. Senator Carson Rogers gave me a copy, and doing the best I can without my glasses, I am going to try to read a couple of paragraphs, and this is under the heading of "Big Problem - Unfair Sales Tax". Nebraska sales and excise taxes (laughter)...his glasses are a bit heavier than mine, I am not used to those being this heavy. Okay, I can see fairly well. I am going to show why I lift weights. I am going to hold these glasses up, and Senator Schrock is offering me a pair. Nebraska sales and excise taxes take 5.6 times as great a share of income from the poorest of Nebraska families as from the richest 1 percent, and 3.2 times as great a share from middle income families as from the rich, the study found; 5.6 times as great a share, thank you, Senator Rogers, as from the poorest. I am sure even Senator Hefner doesn't like that. I am sure that Senator Schrock does not like that. Senator Robinson does not like that. Nobody, in my opinion, who voted for that bad amendment yesterday likes that but the fact is a reality as unconscionable as this made no difference in the voting yesterday, knowing that you were going to require the poorest people in this state to pay more than 5 1/2 times more than the richest people is totally wrong. There are too many times that people in Nebraska love to laud this state and its people and its morals, talking about the work ethic, respect for family values, then you want to put 5 1/2 times the burden on the poorest as you put on the rich. This is why I often talk about the hypocrisy that I do. If we go by what people say they prefer and what they like, everybody is a good person, but when time comes to cast a vote which should reflect those principles that we so easily talk about, the votes come out saying that we are going to continue not only