

guess, the other comment I would have about... I would echo some of Senator Hall's comments about it's concepts such as this, such as radical departures from our reliance on property tax that we need to be talking about when we examine the tax system between now and next session. We need to be talking about things that Senator Moore was addressing, about the way that we organize our political subdivisions, about the efficiencies that could be out there that aren't right now when we're talking about financing government, because in the end that's what's...that's what's important. We need to talk about what we're spending money on, why we're spending money on it, if that is...if that's...the items that we spend money on are appropriate, if they're proper roles of government and if we are doing it as efficiently as possible, that all has to take place when we examine the tax system as a whole. The other thing we need to look at if we're looking at an income tax increase as major...as major as this, we need to start looking at those people that are able to shelter income. We use, as the starting point, for the Nebraska income tax, federal adjusted gross income, and then we make some more adjustments at the Nebraska level and end up with Nebraska taxable income. We need to look perhaps at starting with gross income maybe if we're talking about raising the amount of money that we're talking about in this situation. We may want to start with just simply gross income and try and structure a progressive tax based on the gross that simply the gross receipts that an individual or corporation is bringing in because the rates that we would have to have otherwise might be so high as to be a great detriment to those individuals that are not able to shelter income as some wealthier individuals are. So I think we need to take a look at all sorts of things like that. That's just one question...one aspect of this situation that bopped into my head as I was sitting here thinking about the Schmit-Rogers amendment. With that, again, I would urge your opposition to this amendment. I would urge you to heed the words of the Revenue Committee Chairman who spoke about examining concepts such as this in an overall review of the tax system and go on from there. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, I somewhat enjoy some of the rhetoric, and, as Senator Will said, it's amazing where the different perspective comes from here in this body. I think in the end we all want to do what we hope is as fair as can be. I