

couple of times because we are not going to have the bucks in the budget and the facts are that at that time we're going to have to take an approach and look at what we can do. Senator Dierks, you're just a few months ahead of your time and you may have not quite approached it in the most, well, most genteel manner, but I would guess that your amendment would get substantial support across the state. And one more point that I need to make and that is that none of us, be we urban or rural, be we university oriented, state government oriented or anything else, none of us like to see adversity strike the State of Nebraska or our districts. But for two months now, more than two months, six months before we got into this body, those of us who represent certain areas of the state have been told, you've got to take your lumps, we're going to do it to you. On this floor, we said this is the best that you're going to get. Our rural legislators said take what I can get. Do you really believe that our people out there enjoy the increase in taxes they're getting? Absolutely not. Do you really believe that they don't have families and budgets and obligations to meet? Of course, they do. Does it really not ever occur to this body, as a whole, not as an individual, because we all know about it as individuals, but as a whole does it not occur to this body that individuals, and every one of us included, must always find ways to cut, curtail and limit expenditures because of adversity in our daily lives and in earning capacity? But, for some reason, we expect the great great big lumbering government thing to continue to roll and I just want to say this, that governments have become inflationary. We expect the 3, 5, 7 percent increases in government spending and government spending has been the most inflationary factor in our economy for 50 years and will continue to be that. Unfortunately, we are getting more...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and more people who are living off of government than are supporting it. When it gets to the point where you've got 51 percent living off of it and 49 percent supporting it, which we are very close to now, we're going to have probably an inability to even ever curtail the system. I hope you support the amendment. I'm not sure what Senator Dierks is going to do with the bill but, as an expression of good faith, I hope you support the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. We will now vote on