

the floor when the tough decisions are made. We can always find something else to do. If we had a \$50,000 appropriation here coming out of somebody's favorite agency, we'd all be up here on a dead run. But so long as you've got the thing greased, so long as the lobbyists who organize the situation have got it put to bed, nobody really cares. No one cares because you know you've got it under control. Well, ladies and gentlemen, it will not always be under control. It's not always going to be that way. The time is going to come when it will be out of control. Senator Dierks and others have talked about a taxpayer revolution. I do not believe that we're going to see people storming the State Capitol but I will tell you this, time after time as I travel across the state constituents and citizens have told me we expect you to do a better job of holding down cost. It doesn't make any difference if I say I didn't vote for that bill or that expensive bill, they say, we expect you to hold down cost. We're not doing it. Instead, we very blindly decide that we should just raise the taxes. It would not hurt a thing, it would not hurt a thing if we took all the money out of 1013 (sic) and said, eat it. It would not hurt a thing. And I can tell you, very frankly, that when the tax notices came out locally, the local people would be at the school board meetings, they would be at the county board meetings and they would be at the city council meetings and say, what's going on. Cut something out. The best example of bureaucratic mistakes, I guess I will say, in all kindness, occurred when the...when the City of Lincoln decided they were going to repair a lot of sidewalks that were not up to code. And so some excited individual working for the city went around with a paint brush and drew a bunch of Xs on all sorts of sidewalks and said this has got to be replaced. Well, I spoke to some individuals who found out what it was going to cost them to replace that sidewalk and they volunteered to do it themselves and found out they couldn't do it. And so, as a result, we know what happened. A petition was carried that said, City Council, City of Lincoln, the sidewalks are yours, we're giving them back to you. We don't need them and we don't want them, you fix them. So what has happened? Xs are fading into oblivion. No one talks about it anymore. It's become an embarrassment for the City of Lincoln. But millions upon millions of dollars would have been spent if the citizens of this city had not just had a belly full and said, we're not going to do it. If you want them fixed, you fix them. If you think that a section of sidewalk that is raised three-quarters of an inch above the adjoining sidewalk section needs to be replaced, let the city pay. And