

the course that was set down 25 years ago when Senator Warner was first here of moving away from reliance upon property to a greater reliance upon sales tax and income tax or should we reverse that trend and go back to using property as a basis for support of government? Senator Warner, Senator Withem, Senator Landis, individuals who support 219CA as drafted and support 1063 as amended know full well, know totally why those amendments are in the manner, drawn in the manner in which they are. They are drawn so as to force the return of personal property to the tax rolls. There is no choice and Senator Warner says we keep, principally myself I suppose, keep acting as though personal property was not on the tax rolls now and that is right, but when I wanted to extend the termination date of 829 in the previous session and in the special session so as to give this body a full legislative term to address this issue, I was told that was not necessary, we can do it in the early days of the session. It is now March 11 and we are still in the throes of debate and will continue to be so until the last day of this session. The facts are that this Legislature can in a few days exempt all personal property from taxation if the votes are there to do so, but those votes are probably not there because the interests who want to set a higher level of spending at both the state and local level have control of this Legislature. The history is there. The record is clear. We continue to spend more and more each year to tax more and more. We increased by ten times the occupation tax on corporations. We put a tax on fertilizer. We're going to put taxes on everything that has been untaxed to try to raise revenue. Some of my constituents were here a number of times, admittedly they live close by, but they repeated this to me again this morning, why doesn't government ever roll anything back? Every other business rolls back when necessary. When budgets are tight and revenues are down, they roll back. I've been told that one of the major employers of this city will actually...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...roll back the laboring man's wages \$5.00 an hour this fall. A few years ago that would have been unheard of. I suspect that most of those employees will continue to work because they can't find a better job, but the alternative is for the company to go out of business and no employee is foolish enough to want to look for a job in this kind of an economy notwithstanding all of the hoopla about the good life of Nebraska. Ladies and gentlemen, the good life of Nebraska is