

group is out there wanting to increase it to 25 cents so we can fund some things. And at some point, we need to still be up front with Nebraskans and say this is not just a minor fee, this is, in fact, a tax. This is what we are taxing. We are going to increase spending and it is not going to get any better because the funds that you are taking, we are not reducing on the General Fund side. We are simply increasing monies we are taking from you and we are spending it, and I think we need to discuss that, whether or not that is a good policy. In my view, the Nelson proposal, Governor Nelson's proposal, which is Senator Robak's bill, LB 1095, is simply a 4.5 million dollar tax increase, pure and simple. It is a 4.5 million dollar tax increase. If you add all of the other fee increases, it would end up being an 8.9 million dollar tax increase. That doesn't count the fact that in the depart...the Game and Parks, they wanted to increase the state park fee as well. The Appropriations Committee wisely said we are not going to touch that. We are not going to pass that bill out. We are going to say, no way are we doing that as far as the Appropriations Committee. You start adding those increases, and we are looking at over \$10 million now of increased "fees", i.e., taxes, and all we are doing is spending those monies for programs that are very, very needed, or very necessary.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And I guess my question to Senator Kristensen, with that intro is, in your committee hearings, what was the rationale for coming forward and saying at this point towards the end of the biennium we can't wait for the beginning of the next biennium, what was the rationale that we wanted...we need to cash fund the Department of Motor Vehicles? What was the rationale for doing that now?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: What was the rationale that the Governor's people used to justify why we needed to cash fund this particular agency?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you. Now it is a fairly long question so I will try to distill it down into an answer that when the Governor's people came before the Transportation Committee, and I suppose this points out the hazards of giving fee bills and money bills to committees that don't deal day in