

property taxes. We do not want you to spend more money from the property tax pool. Those are the kinds of stop and go messages that I think can legitimately confuse our constituents and make us look, frankly, kind of silly because we aren't seemingly having the left hand talk to the right hand about what we want to do. So I'm not bringing this proposed amendment to the amendment to you because I have any antipathy toward Senator Robinson's objectives, in fact I think his objectives are laudable, and I voted in the past to support the Internet project, I would do so again. And in fact despite whatever misgivings other people might have had, I would have voted to use the lottery funds for that purpose. I happen to think that's an important initiative, but it's our initiative, it's a state initiative. And Senator Robinson, in part in this amendment, is suggesting that the costs can be shifted to the property tax, and in fact shifted to the property tax in a way that will avoid other restrictions that we would otherwise impose. Now, I would simply ask for your support of the amendment to the amendment, I hope that it engenders some discussion, particularly about this idea of whether our left hand knows what we're saying to the right hand and the issue of whether or not we should send a clear message to our constituents about what we believe about property taxes in the State of Nebraska.

**PRESIDENT ROBAK:** Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Wesley would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature, there are 55 fifth graders here from Meadow Lane Elementary School in Lincoln with their teacher. They are all in the north balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Beutler, your light is on, do you wish to speak to the Wickersham amendment?

**SENATOR BEUTLER:** Madam President, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to make a few comments not directly about the Wickersham amendment but about the legislative process and about bureaucrats frantically coming in and defending their program. One of the reasons the bureaucrats are frantically coming in and defending their program, and frankly I'm glad they're coming in and defending their program. If they can't defend their program we certainly don't want to keep it. But the reason that they're frantically coming in at this point is because our process is a little bit unusual. This is taking a bill that was in the Natural Resources Committee and which came out of a public