

sticks together once a bill is out of their committee and they don't do any changes to it other than as in yesterday's increase, they did vote for that. And I offered an amendment yesterday of a million dollars and everybody you talk to on this floor tells you that we have to start cutting out of the budget which they're never going to do. I guess when I was campaigning last summer, people were telling me we didn't have a tax increase in four years and I said, well, we also had an additional revenue increase of nearly \$600 million over that period of time. They spend all the revenue increases. I want taxpayers to know that. When revenue increases, that is also spent. When you talk about projections, we go with probably very secure projections when you talk about projections that have to be cut back. We don't actually cut in any of those areas. So it's a kind of a political rhetoric that's going on here when we talk on the budget and it's very frustrating to me and I know a lot of the people that I've talked to in my district and across the state who are actually having to cut their budgets in their family they're actually having to not do with some of the things that they'd like to. They're actually having to cut back on some of the things that they've done traditionally, not only increase some of those things. You're talking about increasing salaries here at 5 percent in some cases, a lot of families I know haven't had a 5 percent salary increase. A lot of families I know don't have the very generous retirement benefits that a lot of the state employees have. A lot of families I know don't have the very generous health care benefits. There's a lot of areas here of just people that we are supporting that we don't even have those same types of benefits in our families here in the State of Nebraska. But as I can see now and probably...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...watching the Legislature can see, it's not going to happen, we are not going to keep this budget from increasing because that's what we're talking about. We're not cutting, we're just trying to keep the budget from increasing at quite the rate that it has been increasing on, as Senator Robinson said, which is more than the normal consumer price index or cost of living increase in the country. Our budget is increasing as it has every year since I've been here, as it will for probably every year to come, and we have to balance the budget but we can get the money to balance it whenever we need it, so it's not like we're doing anybody a great favor by coming