

them, I think, recognize the need to first do some restructuring of government rather than start to make major changes and shifts in tax structure. That can come if and when that becomes a, a necessity, but not until we have done those things that we can do to assist both the state and local government to be more efficient in their operations.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker and members, I'll be brief, but I've been sitting here thinking for several days, one of the things, my guess is, and this is sticking my neck out, but we probably have an infrastructure in Nebraska across the state for maybe two and a half million people. We've got 1.6, but it's part of what we're doing is moving our infrastructure generally to the east or to the center of the state as we become more urbanized. And I, it struck me that part of our costs of our government are because we have to increase government facilities and infrastructure in some areas, and we have good courthouses and we have good schools and what have you scattered all the way across the state. So we have a reallocation of resources here that I think not everyone is willing to accept, and that struck my thought as I decided to comment on the sales tax, raising sales and income tax and/or expanding the base. Those are the issues I think we have to face, and what I'm saying is not necessarily clairvoyant, maybe doesn't have anything to do with the, with the debate. But there does have to be this recognition among Nebraskans with our 1.6 million people that we have, probably in place something to serve it. But our infrastructure is out of place. It's not where the people are living and here we are spending additional bucks on the local property tax, that's my point, that we're building school houses, we're building sewer systems, and on and on in areas of the state that don't have it while the rest, in many other parts of the state's deteriorating and going away. And so we have property taxes going up because that's a function of property taxes is to pay for those things. And I think recognizing that may help us to realize we have to make those difficult decisions. Whether it should be a sales and income tax base to replace that infrastructure across the state, I don't think should happen. I think we also should recognize that we need to preserve the sales and income tax for the state base because we have increasing problems, some of which I haven't brought up at this point, but am talking about in terms of Medicaid. We see