

And I say to you that there's something in what he says here and in the implicit trust that he has in people generally, that I share generally, that I think we should all share generally, and that the people in the context of this given situation, given a little time, will understand that every solution, everything we're doing here with this whole package implies replacement revenues, there will be replacement revenues. There are tactics and there are strategies, but I want to argue with you today that the direct thing to do, the fair thing to do, the wise thing to do is to level with the people, to put with this package a half a cent sales tax, at least, that goes into effect January of '99, and to proceed on the basis of trust with the people and not on the basis of trying to manipulate this situation. If we do, what we have to make up in the next two years will be too large a thing, and the schools will not be held harmless; they will be hurt seriously, possibly very seriously. That's a risk I do not think I want to take. And this bill will be the hardest that I've had to deal with in several years. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Avery announces that the following guests are here today, (introduced guests from Gretna). They are fourth and fifth graders with their sponsors. They're sitting under the south balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, perhaps I would like to perhaps philosophize a bit on this issue as well. There's a one-liner that was given to me, John Kelly (phonetic) used to be an assistant to Governor Morrison, he gave me several that I like that I've used, but one that I remember well: You deal with things the way they are, not as you wish they were. And in part...and I'll talk about the property tax issue, in part that's what we're doing, 'cause there is the perception, and it's not just in Nebraska, it's across the country, that government somehow can be more efficient, that government is doing things it doesn't need to do, a whole series of those kinds of perceptions, perhaps some real, some perception. But part of the concept here is that whether it's real or perception, and perceptions are much more difficult to deal with. But whether it is either, we're not going to start down the road that we've done and been criticized time and time before, and I would defend what we've done before, but that you