

not scientific, but they do give you a reading of what people are...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...thinking about. And most of them say raise the sales or income tax. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. It must be Lincoln's day at the microphone, I don't know. But I am also rising to speak in favor of the Beutler amendment. And there are a number of reasons for that, but I guess probably the most important reason is I recently met, just last week, late with one of the neighborhoods in my district. And they are extremely concerned and scared about their school. And they are trying to follow what's going on around here, and I don't think they could possibly have a full grasp of it, because it's awfully difficult even when you're here on the floor to follow all the nuances of these bills. But they get the general picture of what 291 and 1114 do. And, you know, their...practically their first question was, why don't you find some replacement revenues? Why are you waiting all that time? And I tried to explain the rationale that I thought the Revenue Committee had, and that is that basically get people into the situation where they really have to be concerned and have to think about what services they could cut, or what mergers they could have, or what services they could share. But I don't think that...I don't think they bought that. I think they think it's part of our responsibility to find some of those replacement revenues. And I don't think there's any question on the part of those people who were at the meeting that we can do things, that we can cut services, that we can cut budgets, that we can do some mergers. I don't think they are questioning the desire to find some ways to do that. The second thing I want to mention to you is that I'm probably worried...I'm just as worried, in some ways, about those petitions as anybody else is. But I can't...I don't think I can base my vote in here on what might happen on those petition drives. I have to base my vote on what I think is the best policy for the state of Nebraska. And, you know, I'm not sure that the public will support any of these petition drives either, once they find out what the essence of the petition drives are, what they will mean in terms of