

cuts in services and reductions in property taxes. I'm not sure I think they're going to support any of those petitions either, once they get on the ballot, if they get on the ballot. I think everybody is talking about wanting property tax reduction, but they don't just mean any property tax reduction. They want it to be reasonable and they want to retain their services. I don't think people want their services cut. They want them trimmed maybe, but not cut. Thirdly, I'm not certain that once we start down this road that it's going to be easy to get off this road. And, you know, one of the pieces of mail that I received last week that illustrates this point, I think, was from the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce who said this doesn't go far enough, that we ought...the spending limit should be extended to include state government expenditures, never mind that we may have cuts from the federal government and we may have to provide more aid to the local subdivisions, but we ought to be included in this; secondly, the spending limits, including those on state expenditures, should be extended indefinitely rather than ending after two years.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The tax rate cap should be extended to include sales and income taxes. And an exception... Fourthly, an exception to spending limits should be allowed for population growth, inflation and emergencies, which of course we've already done to some degree. That scares me! They think we should go even further. Maybe, Senator Warner, we're on the right path and we're right about in the middle, I don't know. But I'm afraid of what might happen once we start down that path. I think LB 299 is tough, especially in the second year, but I think I could vote to support that. But I'm not sure that I could support LB 1144, although I know we have a little time in which the people can take a vote, but I think it's awfully drastic. And I think that a lot of entities like the Lincoln Public Schools have already taken steps to do some of the things like cut budgets, talk about mergers,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...talk about sharing services. Thank you.

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