

if we're defending state expenditures, or if they're successful in capping state expenditures, how is it that you're going to help the schools a year or two from now? What source will you use? What tools will you have? Perhaps my argument should be you better do it now, you may not even have the...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...tools in two years. We may be thinking more...if today we're thinking of how to...how to save these different institutions that we're concerned about, maybe before we're able to come to the solution on this problem we're already involved in how to preserve state government, I think it's time we stopped having this defensive attitude and go on the attack ourselves and say government hasn't been so bad in Nebraska, in fact it's been pretty good. In fact the expenditure level, state and local government taken together, since 1970 has not changed; it has not been an additional burden on the people. The low income have a problem. Fixed income have a problem with property taxes. The farmers have a problem with property taxes. But this whole thing is getting out of hand. We have good government in Nebraska.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: We have good schools.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Warner, Wehrbein, Crosby, Kristensen, Bromm, Robinson, Bernard-Stevens, and Schimek.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'm opposed to Senator Beutler's amendment. I'm opposed to increases in the sales tax for any purposes. We all know that it is a regressive tax, but in this particular incident...instance it's being set aside for a specific purpose. The approach that's being taken by the Legislature this session, and Senator Beutler touched on it, is because this is the year of politics, which is the term that I use over and over. And we had these petitions, copies of them, handed around by Senator Abboud, and for many of the senators that's the only reason we're doing what we're doing this year. I don't want to see any of these bills pass. If the people think that there can be better government by way of their circulating and adopting