

problem that I have in trying to decide how to deal with this, I have a very...a very real feeling that we do need to do some serious self-examination and restructuring of government in Nebraska, not picking on any one particular phase of government. But it comes back to the fact that we do have a rather small population, we do have a rather extensive array of governmental agencies and services for the size of state we are. And not picking on local government necessarily anymore than state, if we're going to get this thing turned around we have to look at all facets of government in a more self-examining way than we have to date. With that objective in mind, the next two years, I think, are essential for looking at what we need to change, and for looking at how we're going to replace this revenue. I'm concerned... I support replacing a good share of the revenue, I know we're going to have to. And I will probably support doing it in the area of sales tax, in one fashion or another, whether it be broadening the base, or raising the rate, or some combination thereof. If we do this, a half cent raise on the present base, and we raise 70 or 80 million dollars, there are going to be many who will feel that we have done all we're going to have to do, or all that we are going to do, and I don't think that's realistic. I don't think we can get down to where we only have to replace 70 or 80 million dollars. So if that's the case and this doesn't go into effect until 1999, and also taking Senator Warner and the Revenue Committee at their word, which has certainly been valid to this point, I believe that a more significant amount of revenue will need to be generated and that a more in-depth look at how we generate that revenue...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...as well as how it's distributed needs to be done over the next...over the interim and during the next year. And as a practical matter I don't think there's anybody on this floor that thinks the Governor will sign the bill with the sales tax increase. I mean he said he wouldn't; he said it many, many times. So I don't know why we would think any differently. Yes, if we put him in the position of vetoing it, we've done something, but have we done something for our schools, our towns, our villages by doing it in that fashion? I don't think so. And if the package fails then I don't think I'm going to be able to go home and say that I really did my best to get something done down here on property tax. So, for those reasons and others that I probably won't have time to go into just at