

questions that the chamber needs to think about as well. Because if we can't go to a tax shift at some point, two years down the line, or even this time, and I intend to support the Beutler amendment, if we can't go to a tax shift, then we do it by cutting spending at this level. I wonder whether they're going to support that? One of the first amendments I think we should do in cutting the spending would certainly be on a lot of the job training on DED, the monies that we've given. We'll have to go to where the money is. If you're going to find 100 to 150 million dollars you got to go to where the money is. The money is in social programs, University of Nebraska. Let's go ahead and cut then higher education. And I suspect the argument would be, gee, we can't do that because that's the life blood, for the most part, of a state; we need higher education and strong research in order to attract businesses. So, members of the Legislature, the debate today is not going to be any different two years from now. And the argument that some senators have put forward, that you have to let the pain develop before you have any cure available, otherwise it won't be effective, is nonsense, because Senator Beutler's bill does not...the tax would not even begin until two years later when the tax caps are put on. In other words, school districts would have no choice but to make the cuts because they don't know, they're not going to receive any dollars until the next time around. They have to make the serious decisions, they would have to make them. This would not blunt that whatsoever.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Beutler, I think, had an interesting idea, and again counter to a couple things Senator Bromm stated, and that is if we're willing to say that two years from now we'll try to get 120, 200 million dollars. This time at least half of us can vote to do about half of it now, and the other half, when they're not up for reelection, if they want to, can vote for the other half. But if we're not even willing to do half of it or less than half this time around, when it won't even take effect until two years later, are we going to have any real desire on the body's part to increase, in two years from now, a tax base? And I don't believe there will be. I think Senator Abboud's (sic) idea will...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.