

SENATOR BEUTLER: The discussion today is a harbinger of things to come. The increase in the sales tax is far and away the most popular choice of Nebraskans in terms of replacement revenues. And yet already on the one hand the chamber of commerce and business groups are going to fight that. On the other hand the same thing is going to be fought by Senator Chambers and Senator Schimek and others who do not feel that a sales tax is an appropriately scaled type of taxation, so it's attack from the right, it's attack from the left. There are going to have to be negotiations. I'm just afraid that in the end you will never be able to do the job in one fell swoop. And perhaps that...therein lies the whole difference in everything that we're doing here. One person's judgment versus another as...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (Laughter) That was the would-be ventriloquist, Mr. Speaker, and not me.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I wasn't paying any attention to you anyway, Senator, so....

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And that goes to the ventriloquist. (Laughter) I have something here with Jensen, number 20, in the top, right-hand corner, speaking of taxes, and it talks about a family of four earning roughly, as Senator Jensen said, \$80,000. Senator Jensen, the types of family this is based on, this family of four, it's the bread winner, which would be you, a dog, cat, and a canary. That there family of four making \$80,000, this doesn't really apply in Nebraska. But let me say something or ask a question. Senator Beutler, which do you think would bring more money....? Oh, I don't...oh, Senator Warner, I'll ask you. Which would bring more money, and just a rough estimate, and if you can't tell me that's all right, removing all sales tax exemptions, with the exception of food, or raising the sales tax by a half percent?

SENATOR WARNER: Removing all exemptions.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm asking Senator Warner.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Warner, would you respond?