

figure out just how we could alleviate some of the pains of 1114 by finding another source of revenue. But to me that's backwards. To me, we should be coming back next year and passing LB 1114 if we don't see the kinds of results that we want with LB 299. Next year is not too late to pass 1114. What I guess...probably what really, really took me over the edge on this issue and made up my mind for me was a letter that I got from my own chamber of commerce a couple of weeks ago, and I mentioned it earlier in debate. But when I see what they think we should be doing, which goes far beyond even what we're doing here, that really put the fear of God into me because I thought, what if we can't come back and pass a revenue bill, or what if we can't come back and undo what we've done. Then we really have, we really have changed the whole educational landscape in Nebraska. And I have too much pride in this state, and I have too much pride in the educational system in this state to do that unwittingly, or "wittingly" perhaps I should say. But what that Lincoln Chamber of Commerce letter said to me is that if we're to have meaningful tax reduction, then spending limits should be extended to include state government expenditures. Well, that, in principle, is fine until you think about the fact that next year we may be dealing with very, very significant cuts from the federal level, plus we will be asked to do some kind of revenue makeup to the local subdivisions. The second thing that letter said was that spending limits, including those on state expenditures should be extended indefinitely, indefinitely. And thirdly, the tax rate cap should be extended to include state sales and income taxes. In other words, there shouldn't be another source of revenue. We should cap spending and we should cap levy limits, and that should be the end of it. I can't...I can't buy that and until I can see that we are going to do something which will relieve those local subdivisions, I can't vote for 1114. I might be able to vote for it next year or the next year, but not this year. I would like to say that I think the Revenue Committee has done yeomen's service, the debate has been good, it's already been good. We've already seen some results. I mean, I'm just thinking about my own public school system and their efforts to get together with other school systems and how...see how maybe services can be shared and maybe even talking about potential mergers at some time down the road. I think this whole discussion is necessary, don't get me wrong. I think it's necessary and I think it's good, and I think maybe we need to put a little scare into everybody, but this is far too Draconian for me. And I