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comes time to make cuts the first thing we take to look at is making cuts at the school level and then determine how we're going to provide the financing for the schools to continue to provide the education that we, as a state, certainly are obligated to furnish. And when I looked at this, and listening to Roger Wehrbein...Roger, can I ask you a question?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein, would you yield?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Roger, you know, we read the papers every day and we see what...what a glowing financial situation this country is in, where are the tough times right now? Who are having the real tough times as far as trying to make it right now?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Midwest agriculture.

SENATOR VRTISKA: That's right, agriculture. Agriculture is having a difficult time, everybody knows it, because the prices are bad. But what are we saying now? If we've got tough times, let's raise property taxes. Let's make up the difference with property taxes, at a time when many of the people who pay property taxes are having a difficult time even being able to pay their bills and keep their operations going. It looks to me like if we have to talk about a way to finance education, that I had thought at one time, based on the bills that we passed before, that we would turn away from property taxes, and I noticed, as the candidates across the state for local government, state government, whatever, their pledge was to reduce property taxes; we're going to do something about property taxes. And now we're standing on the floor and saying, well, if we have a difficulty, we're going to raise property taxes to support the schools. Maybe that's the way to go. I'm trying to, in my own mind, make...come to the conclusion, is that really what we ought to do? I guess, as I think about it, and I'm trying to get the proper perspective on this, as I think about it, there is sales and income tax that could be adjusted along with property taxes to make this thing more equitable. That probably is not going to sell. I think from what Senator Beutler said he's going to talk about that, and maybe he's