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revenue to the state. Shortfall of revenue to the state means that the people who earned it get to keep it. Now that is a different attitude than some people have. But I would also point out that if they are allowed to keep it, they do not bury it in a cream can in the backyard where it is static wealth. They go out and do other things, including making other local investments. And if it is taken from them by the state, the state spends it one time and then looks around for more. I urge everyone to vote against (a) the amendment, and (b) the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Beutler, on the amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think this is probably one of the most important debates that we'll have this session because it relates to a large issue and because it relates to an issue in which we are in a down spiraling rut, and what are we going to do about it? Let me tell you what I think the big issue is. The big issue is that we are year in and year out whipsawed, in this Legislature, by the argument of competing with other states on economic incentives. And the continuing spiral and result of that continuing competition is a greater and greater inequity in incomes in this state and in every state in the Union, all over this country. This example is just one small example. Another advantage, capital gains exemption for a small group of the wealthiest citizens, if that is necessary to keep the engines of the economy going, so be it. But the result of that, as you can easily see, when multiplied by all of the incentives we continue to get and enhance, multiplied by all the states that are doing this, what is the result? The result is that the gains of this super economy of the 1990's are not being shared in nearly the proportions that they used to be shared in American society when there were gains in productivity. That's what this is all about. And you need to ask yourself, do you really think it's fair? Did you see the article in the paper this morning? In the past 20 years income for the poorest Nebraskans rose by about \$900. For the richest fifth of Nebraskans it rose by about \$36,000. My God, that's the average medium income in Nebraska is right around there. My personal journey on this has been difficult and I think it's been the same personal journey