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so. And so I say that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Vrtiska, on the Redfield amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I wanted to echo the words of Senator Bromm in saying that whichever way we go...I'm not concerned Senator Redfield's amendment. I don't think it's necessary, but I guess if the body thinks that's the way to go, that's okay with me. I say that mainly because we have lowered taxes before when we had too much money, and we'll do it again. The only difference is, somebody else will get the credit for lowering taxes at a time when it may be to their advantage. So what we do with this is not, with me, a big deal. The thing that I want to talk more about...and I've listened very intently to the discussion today, about cuts and about tax increases. My biggest problem, and I've said it before, and I'll say it again, I said I would never support any tax increase unless it went to K-12 education, that's suffering dramatically with the cuts that they've been taking. I've got schools in my district that are going to have to close because they just can't maintain it anymore. They are rifting teachers right and left. They're not going to be able to provide the quality education that the students in those districts are entitled to. And there's no way we can...that they can raise their local taxes to the degree that they can pick up the losses that they've had from the state aid. Now, Senator Maxwell has brought up all kinds of ideas on how we could change our tax system. Most of what I've seen he's come back...come up with would be detrimental to the rural sector of Nebraska. I can almost assure you of that. But I do think that all of us agree that maybe we need to go a new direction with our taxing situation in Nebraska. I don't have the answers. I wished I did. But I do know that...I have to reiterate that many of the schools in Nebraska are being decimated by what we've done insofar as the cuts we've made, and it's been to the