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FLOOR DEBATE

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you could come and testify. This bill flew under the radar. Couldn't pick it up with sonar because there was not a peep uttered, at the time the bill was presented, during the hearing, that it was going to become a tax increase bill. Now it has that form. The public has not been able to testify or even consider a bill to extend the lifetime of these plates, while at the same time being aware that there was going to be a tax on a tax included. I'm going to put a motion up there, not only to extend the debate, because I think this is my third time, but to send this bill back to committee so that there can be a hearing on this aspect of it. We are...and I'm going to start (laugh) quoting the Gettysburg Address: We are engaged in a great Civil War, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. But then something clicked in my head and said, that's not what I'm about. We are engaged in or faced with a financial crisis in the state. The forecasts relative to the amount of money that's going to be taken in continue to become gloomier and gloomier.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Because of that and other factors, the Governor's Office wants to cut money from the Nebraska Supreme Court, which is something I cannot stomach at all. But maybe if we would handle this bill properly by sending it back to committee, we could turn it into a sure enough tax generator. The amount of money generated under the current form of the bill may not be that much, but it establishes a principle, namely, the tax on the tax, and we may as well turn it into something that's going to raise some money or we ought to restore this bill to its original purpose and let it just extend the life span of these plates and let the counties take their lumps. They didn't ask for what Senator Wehrbein got us to put on the bill. How much time do I have, Mr. President?

SPEAKER BROMM: Two seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) The next speaker...excuse me. Mr. Clerk.