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increasing property taxes, and those taxes increase for a number of reasons, including the fact that their homes increase in value, but also because local governments have been forced into positions sometimes to raise those property taxes. I don't believe that sales taxes are particularly kind to those persons who are at the bottom rung of the ladder, and I don't think fees are necessarily fair to those people who are living on fixed incomes. So I'm not going to vote for a surcharge on electricity. I'm not going to vote for, and didn't vote for, something like the state aid cut that would probably automatically mean a property raise. I'm not going to support a sales tax increase but...and I'm not going to support the bonding issue, because I just think that puts the problem off to a later date. What I would support is Senator Hartnett's approach with the income tax and I'm just getting acquainted with what's actually in his amendment. But I think that we have to remind ourselves that prior to, I believe it was 1997, we actually had a higher property tax rate in Nebraska than we do now, and we've gone partway back to that but never the full way. So I hope to have a full discussion on that, but I think that is a much fairer solution to this problem and it won't hit the people who really are on fixed income. I'm certain that all of you get letters and cards from your constituents, as I do, telling me they don't know if they can afford to stay in their homes much longer. Most of these people are on Social Security and Medicare. The cost of their prescriptions go up almost monthly and they are really in a bind. And the electricity surcharge, of course, wouldn't be tough on...on most people, but it would be really tough on those people and I...I'm not going to support it. So just for the record, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Beutler, on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, just a couple of things and then I wanted to make a few comparisons. I wanted to compare a little bit this utility tax with the income tax and with Senator Brashear's proposal, and I'm sure my list of comparisons is only partial. Any of us can't think of all the different legitimate comparisons, but I think we probably should all start making that list so we can