

May 9, 1975

cutting their budgets this year. This state of ours has ... Mr. President, I make a motion we adjourn ... we recess for ten minutes and let people get visiting over with.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall the Legislature be in recess for 10 minutes for visiting purposes. Record your vote. Have you voted? Senator do you want to go under Call to go on recess? Record.

CLERK: 8 ayes, 19 nays.

PRESIDENT: We are not in recess Senator. I think Senator Keyes has a very important matter that he wishes to discuss with the body. I think he was trying to tell us all to pay attention. Is that a fair interpretation of what you're saying Senator?

SENATOR KEYES: Well it is partially an interpretation of what I would like to do. You see Lieutenant Governor and fellow Senators if we take a 10% cut in every budget bill that we have this year, with these two exceptions that I have, it will mean we will cut in the vicinity of \$38 or \$39 million off of the budget. This will let every department of government in the State of Nebraska operate on about a 17% increase more than what we had last year in the general fund budget. Now the cost of living and the cost of operating your home has not gone up this much. At a time when the people of this state ... we got 8% unemployment. At a time when the income of the people that are working has been eaten up, I see no reason under the sun why we should come along and spend in the vicinity of 27% more on our general fund obligations than we spent last year. This 10% that I am asking you to cut is relatively insignificant really. I have voted for practically every increase, not only the ones that the Budget Committee brought out but practically every increase in the budget that you folks have asked for because I thought they were necessary. That's probably what we need to do for the State of Nebraska. What we really need to do is after we get everything accepted that you folks want, and that you can convince 25 Senators we need, then let's cut the budget 10%. We could cut it 20%. I hope someone has an amendment that brings it down to 20%, then we will almost have 10% more than we spent last year. I don't understand what we are dreaming of. If we don't want to be back here next year and get elected, just send out about a \$90 million more on this budget than what we have. Just send out \$90 million more and expect the people to pay it. Just increase this sales tax to 3%, put your income tax up to 14 or 15, and then with the increase in the corporate income tax you will find out that the people of this state are not interested in spending money. They're not interested in having you spend \$90 million more than we spent last year. They're not even interested in spending the money you spent last year. They come along and say that we are going to spend \$93 million. This will cut \$35 million off the budget. If you want to do it, I move that you vote on this bill. You can debate it if you want to. I'll just say let's go ahead and do it.