

hopefully hold down...if we can hold down spending, we can hold down our taxes. But here just about the time where I think we're just about there, that we've made great progress, we're slowly turning the faucet off on spending, then we reach over here and we turn the faucet off...or turn the faucet on, on increasing sales tax to create more revenue so that we can spend more money again. It's just a vicious cycle and it's time to stop, take a look, control our spending bring our taxes into line, then I think we will see true economic growth in Nebraska, and we'll have a broadened tax base. Then we can, hopefully, reduce taxes, have...clear across the board, and that's where we need to be clear across the board. We don't need to shift taxes from property taxes to sales tax or income tax. Let's hold the line, let's take a look at it, let's see if we can live with less. Certainly we have businesses all across Nebraska that have had to do that, that have had to tighten their belts and to create some efficiencies all businesses had. It's time for government to do the same thing. What are we doing with insurance costs? We've done the same thing there with managed care and I think that we have, for the first time now, seen a decrease in our medical costs...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...and in our insurance. Now is not the time to look for more ways to tax, now is the time to look for ways to cut taxes, to cut spending and then grow Nebraska. Thank you for your time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, it's interesting how we want to argue things both ways. I mean Senator Kristensen says at one time, well, this isn't all that much money, we're going to have to do a lot more, so there's no use doing this because it's not that much money. And yet at the same time the proponents are turning around and saying, well, if you do this there's no incentive for efficiency. Well, if it's not very much money, why isn't the huge incentive for efficiency still there? I mean they want to argue it both ways. I hope that's clear to people. And I hope it's also clear to people that we're not talking about one or the other, a search for efficiency versus putting in some replacement revenues. All this is talking about is a minimal safety net. We're talking