

irate, a few obscene, all of them belligerent, that I received in the last few days, my vote against the raise certainly came about spontaneously. I am not going to swallow that, Senator Warner. Secondly, the matter of the personal property tax exemption was started, not by myself, but by others in this Legislature and the efforts of this Legislature to continue that process is just one further extension of it. I spoke on this floor many times during the time we discussed the budget bills and I remind you that I spoke with deep concern that there would not be sufficient funds to pay the kind of salaries that we like to pay good employees and I defend the vast majority of the state employees of the State of Nebraska but I remind you also, ladies and gentlemen, that the Budget Committee stood fast nine abreast and rebuffed every single admonition, every single one of those attempts to amend the budget. They accepted no... not one single amendment except one which I proposed for \$7,500 out of again, more than \$650,000,000, an insult I think to this body that we were not allowed to do anything to that budget and then there comes a time when the Governor, and I would like to just specifically mention the ETV budget which I discussed at length and the funds for the capital investment and I pointed out at that time that there would come a time when state employees would not be paid because we were spending money for hardware and we were spending money for bricks and mortar and that people would suffer. Well, ladies and gentlemen, my amendment to that budget was not nearly as drastic as was the Governor's and I tried to talk to some of you and point out to you that the Governor was going to have a chance at that budget and that in view of the economy as it stands today, that I thought that he would probably be a little tougher and he was. I place, and I agree with Senator Warner, a high priority upon state employees and their salaries but if you will review the amounts of increases the state employees have received in the past year and a half since Governor Thone has been Governor you will find that it approaches 20%, not exactly an....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...a small sum. I think that we must recognize and the person who called and remonstrated with one of my staff some time ago about the lack of an adequate salary increase was told, you know, I wish we knew for sure that I had a job. There will be people out of work and as I have told some employees who have said they can't get by with that kind of a raise, that there are going to be people