

PRESIDENT: All right, the Chair recognizes....seeing no further speakers, Senator DeCamp, I will recognize you for closing on the motion to advance.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, right or wrong this session has been cast into the formula of either come here and have a tax increase or come here and take action under the Governor's plan and prevent any tax increase this year and next year. One of the first things that I learned in Vietnam was that before you could ever be a leader you have to be a very good follower, and because this is the Governor's session, because under the Constitution he had the power to call it, I have tried to follow the orders and instructions and program he offered for the economy and future of the State of Nebraska for the next 18 months or thereabouts. I sincerely hope the proposal that we would pass if we advance this onto Final now, I hope it works and I mean that in all sincerity. However, I do want to say I express grave personal reservations about the analysis of the economy of Nebraska now and in the future by the officials that are providing the Governor the information upon which he is taking this action. I regretfully believe that we may be entering something more akin to a depression than a mild recession and that if that does indeed occur, we will know it pretty well by February and March and we may have to take some very dramatic action. What we are approaching here, what we are doing here is the conservative approach as proposed by the Governor and it is in the line of the Reaganomics which now is the mode of the country and hopefully and prayerfully it all will work. However, remember this, Nebraska's agricultural economy is probably at its all-time low, possibly even worse than some of the conditions in the depression. Our construction and housing industry is as low as it has ever been. The natural gas and utility increases that are coming in January are going to devastate this state like nothing else, and it is very possible that we could see ourselves in a full scale, full blown depression by next year. Should that occur, I hope there are those in here who having followed the leadership at this point to take the conservative approach will at least give strong consideration that there may be other approaches completely the opposite that may be necessary to bail this state out. If the Thone plan is correct and works, everything I am saying here becomes meaningless and moot. If, however, the economic conditions do develop, I repeat, I think then we have to be ready to consider far different solutions to put the people back to work, to get the engines going, to save our agricultural machine, to make this state survive. I urge you to advance the plan. If it's the leadership we