

may be true but we're all responsible, all 49 people are responsible for the budget and whether it is planned or not I think we ought to cut the budget by a straight across the board cut. Now we talk about property taxes. Somebody said they won't go down if this happens. Well, let's look and see what we've already done to the citizens of the state. We've raised the gas tax for the cities and counties in the budget, an increase in the gas tax for the state. That's already in there. We've already raised the gas tax 2.4 percent. We've raised the Lincoln sales tax and now we're talking about an increase in the statewide sales tax or income tax. So we stand up here and we're hypocrites. We're saying on the other hand, boy, we've got to save this money, we have to do this, and on the other hand we keep gouging them one way or the other. Oh, yes, let's don't forget 715. That nicked everybody. That's going to raise the taxes and that's already signed into law. That's going to bring in a bundle of money that the consumer is going to pay so we've raised the taxes on him there. This body has sat here and raised taxes and raised taxes in a hidden way, sometimes in an open way and now they want to go sales tax and/or income tax raise, and then they say reduction of property tax. Well, who got the reduction? Who got the reduction in property tax when you looked at that little sheet here the other day? Senator Nichol has got a 62 percent increase in his property tax valuation. The vast majority of the people got an increase in their valuation which is going to cost more tax. So I say this. If you take the 2 percent, and I prefer the 3 percent, and cut it straight across the board, that's the way to do it because you treat everybody just exactly alike. Now I have amendments up there to cut \$105,000. I'll withdraw those. We have 29 other amendments up there, so this would be the cleanest, best, most "expedious", fairest way to cut the budget, just straight across the board. I prefer the 3 percent. We'll listen to the rest of the debate whether I support the 2 percent or not, but I'm a little bit disturbed by Senator Beutler saying if we accept his 2 percent, we can add some more back in. Well, that won't work, Senator Beutler, because if you start adding it back in, your 2 percent isn't going to cover it. But if you take the 3 percent then maybe you could fudge a little bit and add some back in, but once you cut I say let's don't add anything back in. So regardless of whether it's a 2 percent or a 3 percent, members of this body, I suggest that you give it a good think to support the issue. Thank you.