

PRESIDENT: The Chair would interrupt debate to announce that Senator Miller has guests in the north balcony. There are 15 eighth graders from Axtell Public School in Axtell, Nebraska, with their teacher. Thank you for coming down and visiting the Nebraska Legislature. If you'd stand, we'd like to recognize you and welcome you. The next in the speaking order is Senator Marsh. We are speaking now on the Beutler amendment to the DeCamp amendment.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm rising to oppose the Beutler amendment and while I'm on my feet I would like to tell you that I also oppose the DeCamp amendment. Why? The explanation was partially put forward that should have triggered some questions in a number of minds. You're treating them all fairly. Oh, no you're not. Some agencies are predominantly cash agencies with a small token amount of general fund dollars so 3 percent or 2 percent will not have nearly the effect on that agency as an agency which is totally funded with general fund dollars, which does not have federal dollars coming in, which does not have cash dollars coming into their budget. It is not treating all the state agencies evenly or fairly. I oppose both of the amendments. It is not the wisest course. You have been elected to represent your constituents, but you also have additional information than most of your constituents. You have the responsibility to make a choice. That choice last year should have been to have our income tax remain where it should have been at 20 percent. It should move there this year. I will have the courage to do that. There may not be enough of us to have that much courage, but that would be the truly fairest and kindest way to handle the state budget. That will make everyone who has income pay a fair share to support a fair share of services for the State of Nebraska. I urge you to vote no for the Beutler amendment and then vote no for the DeCamp amendment. That is not the wisest legislation.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I'm going to support the Beutler amendment if 3 percent, no, let me say...if 2 percent won't go, 3 percent won't go. I suggest if you're going to do it, I don't claim it's wise or unwise. Each individual has to make that judgment here. All I am telling