

but I think that the facts are before us. We need to take a hard look and we need to do some cutting. I was disappointed with the Revenue Committee meeting last Friday afternoon when we had met one time, the day previously, and said that we were going to bite the bullet, that we weren't going to put an increase in that tax raising bill that was sent to the floor, but then hurriedly we met Friday afternoon and some of those that had said that they were a conservative caucus, a conservative caucus, voted to send the bill with a one cent increase in the state income tax. Ladies and gentlemen, we're not going to increase taxes this year. We can't afford to increase taxes this year. I will not support a sales or income tax increase unless it's directly for property tax relief. I have been going home just about every weekend and there hasn't been a Saturday or Sunday that's gone by that somebody hasn't called me or have come to see me that says that they have had foreclosure proceedings filed against them or are taking our bankruptcies and these are farmers, small businessmen, employees that have been laid off. And so I think it's high time that government will relax their spending just a little bit, cut their spending a little bit and say we just don't have the money for this program or that program. It hurt me very much to vote against some of these cuts and it's hard. You're going against a lot of friends, a lot of good friends, but right now is not the time to raise taxes. The time is right to cut and so I'm going to support the 2 percent and if necessary support the 3 percent cut in our budget.

PRESIDENT: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I supported the pregnant women's bill and I was disappointed, but I'm not going to support this. I feel if you earn money, you're able to pay the taxes. We talk about people losing their farms and losing and foreclosing and all this, they're not going to pay any taxes. You have income tax, just those people who are making money are going to pay it and, furthermore, if we cut, this will be a 3 percent reduction in state aid and that isn't going to be lost. Our property is going to pick that up. We're going to see an increase in property tax instead of the decrease like we talked about the whole session. We talked about property tax relief, but what are we doing now? If we pass this bill, we're giving them an increase and I think that's