

next to the fire, and put together a more rational way of cutting \$14 million from the budget because I would expect that there is a more rational way of doing it. And I would say, look, let no funds be sacrosanct. I mean if we have to go beyond the general fund into some of the cash funds, some of which have risen at a very high rate in recent years, one cash fund, the largest one is at a 41 percent increase the last five years, surely we can direct the energy and the efforts of the legislative fiscal office and the Appropriations Committee to review the entire budget and find that \$14 million. You know it can be done. I know it can be done. I think we just need the grit and the determination to get it done and I would support the DeCamp amendment as amended without any further amendments to that. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh and then Senator Lundy and Labeledz.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you very much, Mr. President. It is exactly because of action in our U.S. Congress that the proposal before us in the DeCamp amendment is not what you wish to adopt. Agencies are suffering now from federal dollar decreases. If this is added on top, you are simply saying, in fact, you are asking, no, demanding that local governments pick up the slack. You are reducing the dollars going to local governments, to counties. You are telling them that they must increase property taxes and because you reduce taxes at one level it is not the sales or income taxes that are the big problem. They are paid when people have dollars to spend. The big problem for the citizens of Nebraska are the high cost of local property taxes. I repeat, your constituents and mine keep telling us about the high cost of property taxes. The property taxes are due whether or not there is income coming into the family. Farmers are in bankruptcy, not because they haven't done a good job being a farmer or a rancher, but because of the cost added to their operations of the property taxes. It will be a bigger mistake than you realize, than many of you seem to realize, if you adopt this amendment. An increase in income tax of 1 percent is much more desirable than to be deliberately adding by the adoption of the amendment before us to the property taxes across the State of Nebraska. I urge your opposition to the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lundy and then next in the speaking order are Senators Labeledz, Lamb and DeCamp.