

are recommending to you today. In looking at that handout, you will note that the Appropriations Committee did not cut back on three items, special education, homestead exemption and wards of the court. And we are following the Appropriations Committee again in not making cuts in those three items. So that is the first item of the four parts. The second item is a shift of mass transit funding to the gas tax. Instead of paying this particular item out of general funds, it will be paid out of gas tax. This particular item is not liked by some people. It is liked by others. But it represents a shift of funding, please remember, and not a total cutting out of funding for mass transit purposes. The third item, the third item is elimination of a general fund increase for the University. That comes to \$1.3 million. As I mentioned to you, I have a very hard time swallowing personally that item, but wanting no tax increase, I can swallow that item if other people are willing to swallow the other items. The fourth item is with regard to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. That particular item proposes to decrease the general funds provided for tuition. I take that back. That particular item suggests to the Medical Center that they should increase tuition by \$1 million total and there is a general fund cut of \$1 million on that particular item which will be made up by the tuition. And I am sure that Senator Hoagland will address you in some detail on this item. Other people will address you on the other items. So the total of those four items, as you can see, comes to \$8.7 million. If we could, in one stroke today, make that cut, if we could just hold together for one hour and debate these and vote these cuts, we are to the point in one hour's time where we don't have to have a tax increase, where we don't have to have a tax increase, and we can have a reserve above 3 percent. But the key to it all, the key to it all and the reason that Senator DeCamp and others predict gloom and doom and failure is because everybody has to give up something. And so that is why I ask you again, again, look at the total package. Isn't everybody getting hurt? Isn't this about as fair a distribution of the hurt as you can make? And then we have to look within ourselves and just get up the will to do this. It is like the old cartoon says, you know, we have looked at the enemy and the enemy is us. That is all there is to it. If you have the will in the next hour to do it, it can be done and finished with, all the trauma done and finished with. Please give serious consideration to holding the entire four items. Thank you.