

programs that we absolutely should not be cutting and I think most of us can see the need for, or they bear heavily on a small group of people. And I would urge that we get on with this business, adopt 722 as we have it right now, send it over to the Governor. And I am not trying to be critical or put him on the spot, but it is obvious that 49 people are not going to agree that we have 25 votes on an issue when it comes to...when it comes to cutting. If it takes a tax increase, I am ready to vote for a tax increase. But I don't think we are getting any place with this procedure that we are following right now. I would urge you to defeat this amendment and get on and pass 722 on to the Governor.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Lamb and then Senator Warner.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, Senator Beutler, I understand from fiscal people that this \$4 million cut includes \$108 from Keya Paha County fund for high school tuition and there is no way I am going to stand for a cut of that magnitude in my district. But, seriously, what have we done? What have we done? Senator Remmers said, we are going to shift it, we are going to shift it over to property tax and not only on this cut but homestead exemption, you know. I have not seen anybody come forward with a plan to fund homestead exemption. I have not seen Senator Beutler or anyone else seriously consider repealing the homestead exemption. There is a bill, maybe it will be done because there is one being circulated. Maybe that will be done. Maybe I am in error. But at this point anyway homestead exemption has not been funded, not been repealed, and so we are going to shift. We are going to shift from...over to agriculture and business for that homestead exemption which we passed last year. Now Senator Beutler is not willing, not willing to defer Municipal Court takeover. He is not willing to do that. Now Lincoln, as you all know, got their extra half cent sales tax. Now that certainly is going to take some of the pressure off property tax, while the rest of us with these shifts that he is talking about in reduction to state aid if you can believe that state aid reduces property taxes, then you are talking about an increase in property taxes for that item. How about shifting the mass transit funding to the gas tax? One of the biggest complaints I get out of my district is that gas taxes are too high. People out there burn a lot of gasoline because it is a long way from here to there. That certainly