

May 22, 1985

LB 722

planning your vacation and so we'd like to have you in northwest Nebraska, so come see us. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you, Senator Scofield. Mr. Clerk, where were we yesterday on 722?

CLERK: Mr. President, 722, I still have some amendments pending. Senator Hannibal, I understand the amendment you had, Senator, you want to withdraw. Is that right?

SPEAKER NICHOL: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the bill is offered by Senator Beutler and Vickers. Senator Beutler and Vickers would move to amend the bill by reducing all general fund appropriations by two percent.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I think this is our last clear chance. By that I mean I think it's our last clear chance to reduce the budget sufficiently to avoid a tax increase. I hope that this debate will not be long and tedious this morning. We have debated this subject long and hard. This particular amendment as it stands on the Clerk's desk right now is simply a two percent cut with no exemptions. I have an amendment up that will put in the exclusions or exemptions from the cut that were the same as those put in by Senator DeCamp as amended by Senator Chambers. I do not want to quarrel with Senator DeCamp or Senator Chambers. I do not feel that this is putting the same thing before you as before because the circumstances have changed dramatically since that time when we first considered the two percent cut. Since then two important things have happened that I think are important to all of us. First of all, the other major \$10 million package that was proposed to you was rejected by you and so that is by the way. The second thing that has happened is that the Appropriations Committee has held by its philosophy of a tax rate increase and has not chosen to suggest further cuts to the Legislature. So there will be no further suggestions coming from the Appropriations Committee. That's the second important item. So now we're down to the basic question, tax rate increase or no tax rate increase. If you adopt this amendment as I suggest it be amended, then essentially you will have cut