

May 22, 1985

going to get some flack from the people at home, or we are going to get some flack here or there. But be there with us. If we start this process tomorrow, and Friday, and Tuesday, and we don't see anybody there, and then come back and hear a lot of criticism for what we do offer you on Wednesday, and you are not there, then I think we are just defeating our entire purpose. I would like to see you there if we go with this. It is a sincere effort to do it right and take the opportunity we have. I hope you support the motion.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Hannibal. The Chair would like to announce, before we go on, that our Speaker, Speaker Nichol, and also Senator Baack have guests in the south balcony. They are a group of foster grandparents from western Nebraska, from Scottsbluff, Gering, Minatare, Sidney, accompanied by their field supervisor and director. We are happy to have you down here to see us embroiled in great problems about money and taxation. Welcome to the Legislature. Now then on the discussion here, Senator DeCamp is next, and then Senators Pappas, and Hannibal and Withem.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I think some day students studying history may well conclude that May 22, 1985 was the day that, after 18 years of continued annual government expansion, that the ship of state, so to speak, physically made the turn and started going the other direction. I support the proposal 100 percent. You will not make major changes in government direction until you first of all change the Appropriations Committee. The fact that it took the intimidation, and that is what it was, threat of an absolutely certain across the board cut to accomplish this change in direction is just part of government, and that is what happened. I think it is wonderful. But I think the other half of the story has to be laid out. Since Senator Beutler and Senator Landis are wanting commitments from the Appropriations Committee I think there have to be some commitments run the other direction. In the 70s government expanded with new programs every year. Across the board cuts, which I said this morning, are the worst way to do things, but the only way, except when the Appropriations Committee brings us in specific programs. Across the board cuts merely starve, they merely starve the existing herd of government programs. I think it far better if you can target individual members of the herd and kill them, so to