

this amendment or bring this bill back to adopt this amendment, we will be adding another \$1.5 million to the budget. Some of you folks said that you didn't want a tax rate increase and I hope you stick to your word. I don't believe that this body can continuously tax and spend, tax and spend. The last ten years state budget or state...I should say state spending has increased over a 170 percent. That is a tremendous load. That is a tremendous load for the taxpayers of Nebraska and so with this being the third or fourth time around, I would urge you to vote against bringing this bill back.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers. May we have order in the Chamber, please, so we can hear the speaker. (Gavel.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I have supported from the beginning what is being attempted in this package. Senator Hefner is right when he says we took these issues individually, then tied them together. Whether taken individually or as a package, I have supported it, have supported them. And I think that that support is as valid now as it was yesterday. There have been a few hours elapsed since we took the dastardly actions of yesterday. There have been some media reactions and responses. There have been responses from citizens at large and yesterday is viewed as a terrible day in the history of the Legislature. This has been a rough and ragged and rugged session and I do think there is the opportunity to salvage something before we leave here. And I think everyone of these agencies can be justified and we ought not abolish any of them. Yesterday I had made a motion to try to rescue the funds that were being cut from UN-O's athletic program as well as the program of the state colleges. There is no need in repeating all of the things that were said yesterday because the merits on all of these and each one of these, the merits are well known and understood by all of us. We are now talking about other issues and other principles. There was no agreement that I was a party to yesterday. We don't even need to talk about things like that. The inclusion of these agencies as viable operating entities is not going to break the budget or require a tax increase by themselves. Despite what has been done and the cuts that have been discussed, I think a tax increase will be needed anyway. These agencies are scapegoats. Again I have to say this part of it, they represent the weak, the voiceless and those who generally