

me a completely inappropriate time to ask people, especially in western Nebraska, to be paying more taxes. Right now we should be demonstrating to them that we are sensitive to what is happening to them, that we feel for what is happening to them, and that we are doing our best to do our part not to increase the burden. So I would ask you to seriously consider rejecting the Warner amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment. This amendment will send the wrong signal to the people in Nebraska. It will say that we are giving up, we are running, we are not sincere in trying to hold the budget down. The headlines will read tomorrow morning, legislators approve additional spending. I certainly think that is the wrong signal to send the people in the State of Nebraska, especially in my area. I've had numerous calls again over the weekend. The one message that I am getting is hold tight, hold fast. Certainly there are a certain number of special interest groups that would like to continue, that would like to have their budget raised. But in these difficult economic times we need to bite the bullet. I believe I said that right this time. You had me frustrated the other day and I said bite the budget. Well, I guess it means the same thing. So I would urge you this morning to hang tough one more day. If we hang tough then we have the battle won. So I would certainly urge you to defeat this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm going to raise my voice because nobody is listening. We've already raised the gas tax. We've already raised hundreds of fees. We're going to have millions of dollars come in from that little bill, LE 715 which is a tax increase. Lincoln has increased their sales tax. I, personally, and I hope the members of this body see the wisdom of Senator Beutler and some of these other senators. This is not the time. We don't need it. It's not wanted. We should vigorously oppose any sort of a tax increase because we've already raised them. I'm going to mention them again, the gas tax, we've raised that, hundreds of fees, and lots of taxes in 715. Those are going to be taxes because it is going to be passed onto the consumer, don't kid yourself.