

reason I like a two-year budget on a programmatic basis, on a policy basis, on a basis of what programs are to be expanded, what programs are to be reduced, what programs are to remain the same, but you always need some lead time and I would envision that in the initial budget the odd-number year, those kind of adjustments could be made, in the long run reducing the scope of government but in orderly fashion, not in the fashion that we've been faced with in recent times. Those who address the gap that we've had in revenue and appropriations the last two, three years, I have about a 20, 30 minute presentation I talk about on that because we mislead the public if we tell them that we have problems with revenue because of economic times as if that is the sole reason. I do not disagree that that is...I do agree that that is a major issue, certainly now, or a major reason, but also is the accumulative consequences of a whole series of legislation. On the revenue side the failure since 1981 to address changes in rates because of federal tax code changes, enactment of a series of legislation providing a variety of exemptions I won't take time to enumerate now. The practice of passing legislation not funded to be implemented the following year and funded then and we all know a number of those. In some cases new programs, but to argue that Nebraska has had revenue and appropriation problems since 1981 solely because of the economy fails to recognize what the true facts are. Now in my opinion there is not the slightest doubt, not the slightest doubt in my mind with biennial budgets that you're going to spend less money. Number one, you're going to have less cost because the amount of time that is spent on preparation of budgets by all agencies of government annually, is significant. I have no idea how many thousands of dollars, but I know it's significant. Enactment of this as a bill does not preclude annual review for inflationary or deflationary or abrupt times. That would still be there as long as you're meeting annually so that can...those kinds of situations can be readily met. As a matter of fact, budget submissions, if you're not aware of it, are now on a biennial basis in any event and that was never changed even when we went to annual budgets. It was intentionally not changed, could have been changed, but it was recognized then that it was desirable that agencies look ahead more than 12 months, that you ought to be looking at two months. The problem is that we don't have any indication in an appropriation bill what is going to occur on a programmatic basis until the second half of each two-year legislative