

for this year it saves approximately 5.5 million. My arguments would be relatively simple and they go something like this. Read the latest articles in the Wall Street. Read the information that is coming out of the federal government. Even though, even though you have automatic COLAs, for example, for social security and a lot of other things, this appears it will be the first year ever since this has been implemented, the first year ever where these automatic increases will not occur. They are triggered by a 3 percent cost of living increase, rate of inflation, whatever you want to call it. For the first time ever, the statistics are showing pretty clearly that because of oil price decreases, because of a variety of things occurring, the rate cost of living increase will not match the 3 percent that triggers automatically the federal social security payments or social security increases. We are talking about a 3 percent increase here, and if we pass it, it locks it in. Fine. With all the recent revelations, and again it seems to always occur at the end of the session that we have these revelations, revelations relative to shortfalls in money, shortfalls in corporate taxes, or whatever. With all of these, it would seem not an unreasonable middleground on the part of the public employees and on the part of these legislators here, be they from Lincoln, where most public employees are located, or be they from outstate, or be they from the college areas, it would seem not unreasonable that some modification or compromise could be reached on the area of pay. The argument has been given, and this would be my second argument why it is reasonable, the argument has been given that Nebraska may not be as high in public employees salaries relatively speaking as some of the other states. I would ask you as individual legislators to take the time to review some of these studies and, remember, that Nebraska compared to a California or a New York in business and a lot of other areas is not as high in salaries. For example, I am sure that an apartment in Manhattan costs more than an apartment in the best place in Omaha. Cost of living is significantly different here and a lot of things are different. Relatively speaking, I think if you will study the entire picture, our public employees are as well treated as public employees in virtually any other state, and so I would submit to you, and as I say, this is the last time I will attempt to make any changes in this, I would submit to you it is reasonable to delay this a month as one piece in this puzzle of trying to address what appears to be anywhere from a 25 to a 50 million dollar problem. And so if you do about 5 or 6 million here, you make some adjustments some other places, it may be possible to do minimal tax increases if indeed they become necessary, and it