

people see it through rose-colored glasses, and we can stand here and delude ourselves today and we will be back here in a few months wondering what happened. So I would just suggest that we take a good look at the overall budget and maybe have a million here or a million there that can be shifted or shoved aside and maybe some adjustments that can be made, but after...if you don't learn from history, you have to repeat it, and I will tell you very bluntly that if you have a few bucks left in that budget, we will spend it right up to the limit and then we will be back here and have to be forced into some kind of a tax increase. I want to suggest again, I don't think it is being scrooge-like attitude, but the people of the State of Nebraska do not want a tax increase. I begin to shudder a bit when I hear people say, well, my people say, if they have to have one or the other, they prefer the sales tax. We all know what is going to happen if we take the sales tax. We are probably not going to take a quarter of a cent, we are going to take a half a cent. That starts the whole merry-go-round around again. So before you acquiesce to the idea that we are going to slide into a 20 percent tax rate and then we get into the trade-off situation of which shall it be, sales tax, income tax, broaden the tax, let's just sit back and accept the idea that there is not going to be a tax increase. And I know there are people here who are more wise than I am, more gifted than I am in the accounting end of it, but I will tell you one thing, when the money is gone, it is gone. If you decide you are going to live within that, you can do it. We have not injured state government in the past by virtue of cutting taxes. We will not do it in the future. Business, industry, individuals do it every day. People lose their jobs, they adjust. Businesses get into difficulty, they adjust. The State of Nebraska is a business. It is the largest business in the State of Nebraska, \$2 billion, plus or minus a few. It ought to be easier to adjust that than it is for some businessman or professional man or laboring man or farmer out here who has very limited resources. None of them have the luxury of coming back to this Legislature and saying just up the tax rate a bit and we will work it all out. I suggest that you support the Haberman amendment and then confront the problem head-on and find out where you can really cut it out.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Haberman, there are no other lights on, you are entitled to close on your amendment.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, what a breath of fresh air, and Senator Warner doesn't know what he did