

it was necessary for higher education if they were going to attract the kind of industry and business they wanted. They recommended increase in gas tax because they have roads if they were going to have economic development. So the things you have done to date on state operations were consistent with what your neighboring State of Colorado in which its state chamber is advocating be done, wasn't done. That's not Nebraska's apparently, I think, but Colorado it is. The other thing you did was a choice of gas tax...excuse me, of sales tax or property tax and that is the issue. That's how it ought to be framed.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please. Then Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I have said that I would vote to reduce the budget before I knew what the Governor's idea was of vetoing parts of the budget and I see in this handout, the summary of the Governor's vetoes, the number one item was mental retardation aid, 1,270,000; mental health, 600,000; Metro Area Transit, granted it's in Omaha and Lincoln, but as I repeat, it is those people who cannot afford cars and it's the elderly who cannot drive for one reason or another. Scottsbluff's nursing program, surely the biggest city the farthest west of this state should not have to send people all the way back to Lincoln or to Omaha in order to have a nursing program. And I see the state airplane purchase was going to be reduced a whole \$150,000 and still keep 600,000. The advocacy commissions, the commissions that deal with human services, reduce them 132,915. The homestead exemption, almost 6 million.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The call is raised.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I would go along with a budget reduction, which I did, but I will not go along with taking away human services that preserve life. I cannot go along with the half cent sales tax increase because this is something that would be another hardship on those who are unemployed or unemployable or elderly who are living on food stamps and since my district is the second lowest income per capita out of the 49, I certainly could not do that to them. For this reason I will not be able to vote for a half cent sales tax increase or a quarter of a cent sales tax increase. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, please. Senator Hoagland.