

the last five years that has gone through an active tax enforcement program has enhanced its revenues incredibly, significantly. Senator Hannibal quipped a little bit saying, well, we could take care of our \$40 million problem by adding \$4 million to the Tax Department's...to the Revenue Department's Office and telling them to go get it. That is not really a quip. I guarantee you, Senator Hannibal, that would happen, that would happen. If this Legislature was to appropriate 4 million new dollars for the Department of Revenue, was to establish a tax amnesty program, was to establish substantial criminal noncompliance charges, was to establish a taxpayers' service division, we would collect \$40 million and I would bet on that, I would bet on that. We would collect it because it is not being paid today through deliberate falsification, through honest error, through lack of knowledge or what have you. It is not being paid today. We would collect that money. If we allow this budget to fall \$315,000, it is not even a crap shoot, Senator Higgins, we will lose 3.5 million and more than that. I guarantee that. Experience state by state by state have shown that to be the case. When we allow our local state departments of revenue to fall, we will literally permit our local taxes to fall even more dramatically.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Senator Labeledz, I'd like to have to make the final remarks because she feels as strongly on this issue as do I. We ask your support.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise in support of what Senator Johnson is doing. Many of you were not on the floor when I talked about my seven and a half years with the Department of Revenue and the amount of money that we collected by our Field Audit Division and I mentioned only sales and income tax. Senator Haberman brought up pickles and I brought up bingo and the audits that we had on such minor things. One of the other things that I failed to mention and I told Senator Johnson about it, when a company is having difficulty or a big corporation, small corporation, whatever, or even those that are self-employed in filing an estimate every three months on their income tax, it was a lot cheaper and I don't know