

building of new roads, repairing old roads and whether or not we're overdoing what we have been doing in spending too much money in doing something that maybe is unnecessary. On something like this I would expect that at least 49 senators would say, yes, this is where we should not cut as much as we are asking for in the blue sheet. Instead, we should go down to the 1.5 percent as suggested by the Governor of this state. Not only that, I think 1.5 is even too much. If you ever have a friend or a member of your family that is mentally retarded, that is handicapped or someone in a nursing home in Scottsbluff that doesn't have skilled nursing, you will know I have members of my family in nursing homes in Grand Island and in Omaha and I know what care they get when they have skilled nursing care. I don't think we should ever, in any case, no matter how bad, even if we have to go to the sales tax on services which I have said time and time again I could not support. But if it meant that it would get more money for the mentally retarded and for children and for the hungry and for the ones that are unemployed, I certainly would vote for an increase in taxes because I think what we're doing here is talking about people. We're not talking about roads. We're not talking about Department of Revenue or any of the others that we have gone through. We're talking about people that cannot help themselves. The families are destitute, not only destitute, but they are desperate. I have received many calls in Omaha where there is a long waiting list just to get them in a training program, just to get them into a school of some sort and yet they tell us, well, the money situation, the money crunch, we're not able to do it. You are going to have to wait in line and sometimes there is one to two hundred before your child or your friend or your constituent and it is heartbreaking to know that they can't be taken care of because the Department of Public Institutions do not have the funds to take care of them. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Nelson, please. Then Senator Morehead.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, one other comment I did wish to make. A week ago Sunday I had the pleasure to meet with parents and concerned citizens. Most of them had a member in their family that maybe was retarded or handicapped and so on. I've never had the pleasure to work with a more dedicated group of people and I think it would be a real