

we raise the income tax 1 percent it won't affect those people that aren't making money, but eventually it will. Eventually it will because if we open the gate here this morning, we're not going to be able to close it. If we open the gate to higher education, then the other departments, local government and all the others will be down on our back and so eventually we'll have to open the gate and not cut anybody. So I say that we've got to hold the line here. I still believe that with good administration, with good management that these agencies and these departments can cut that budget three or 4 percent and it will not hurt them. I've been told that if we cut higher education 3 percent, that they will go back 25 years, that it will hurt them and hurt them drastically, and I certainly can't believe that. So, I would urge you this morning to let's stick to the three or 4 percent cut instead of dropping that to 2 percent. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Goodrich, please. I don't see him. Senator Vickers, would you like to speak? We'll catch Senator Goodrich when he comes back.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I think the tone of the discussion this morning is reflective of the collective frustration that this body is feeling under the constraints of the Governor's call, under the constraints of the economic situation that we all recognize that we've got in the State of Nebraska. I quite frankly don't know what I'm going to do in this particular amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, excuse me a minute. (Gavel). Gentlemen over on the north side, would you hold your conversation down so we can hear the speakers, please. Thank you.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. But it occurs to me that we are in a point in time when we collectively are going to have to exert some leadership. I guess I don't share the concerns of some of those people that, as Senator Hefner pointed out, we shouldn't open the door, shouldn't open the gate to certain things. I'm in a business that I'm used to opening the gate and cutting certain ones out, but I have to be careful to use a big whip or a club and shut the gate on the ones you don't want out. It seems to me that we're in a process of setting priorities in here. We decided a few days ago as a body that it wasn't a high