

begging. So I don't believe you are going to discourage the young people from use of cigarettes by raising the tax a nickel. I don't think any of you here really think you will either. Sorry I did not get an opportunity to speak earlier on LB 35. I know the price or the penalty that an individual member of this body pays if you swim against the tide, or fly against the wind. I know that there are strong arguments for what we are doing here in this legislative session. But I want to ask each of you, and I'm going to tell you why I'm going to vote against this bill, and you're going to hear all sorts of comments about what a foolish reason that is. I have, over the years, always I think tried to act responsibly on matters like this, and I have done it when it was not popular to do so. I have done it when many members of the body were hiding in the weeds. But I'm going to say that at this time I'm going to vote against these tax increases because I believe very strongly that until the entire state recognizes that we are in a depression, the rest of you plainly don't care what happens in parts of Nebraska. As long as we bail out certain elements of this economy, certain sections of this economy, as long as there are funds there for certain areas of government, those areas who are unaffected are going to continue on a business as usual basis and they are going to say the heck with the rest of the economy, the heck with rural Nebraska, the heck with the small town businessman, the contractor in the small towns, the employee who can't get a job. There were two jobs available in David City last week at \$3.35 an hour, 73 people applied. One job was a maid in a motel at \$4.00 an hour, more than 40 people applied. Don't tell me about how tough it is at the University. Don't tell me how tough it is in downtown Omaha or downtown Lincoln. If you want to know how "tough" is spelled you go to rural Nebraska. I'm going to tell you one more thing that when that economy transfers into this area, then we are going to really hear the wailing and the gnashing of teeth, but not until that happens, not until that occurs. We know what is going to happen with the University. We recognize, they say first we cut off Curtis, second we cut off Extension, et cetera, et cetera. What's happened in the past? I would suggest that if that should occur that eventually the members of this body will get some common sense and say, okay, if 3 percent results in these kinds of cuts, then maybe we need 15 or 20 percent. Someone says we can't get by with this kind of a cut, we can't find anymore cuts. There isn't a businessman in rural Nebraska