

adopted, which is not, as you know and so do I, an answer to all of the problems. But it certainly will ease the burden for us when we address the problems that we will be facing come January. I would urge you to think twice and maybe a third time before you support this next amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, then Senator Hefner. Okay, Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, this amendment may have some merit. I'm a large collector of taxes for the State of Nebraska. I don't think that we've been audited in the last ten or fifteen years. We used to be audited every year. We also have a business in the State of Iowa where we are audited every quarter. This is for gasoline taxes, special fuel taxes, sales taxes and the like. Sometimes they do pick up some extra money, and sometimes they do owe us a little money in case errors have been made. So maybe Senator Vard Johnson's amendment does have merit. I don't know whether now is the time to do it or not, but I think we ought to think about it. I've been thinking a little more, maybe we should take one-tenth of one percent of what the merchants collect for the State of Nebraska and put that in a pool and hire the auditors from that pool, and then we'd know exactly how much money was going into the fund to pay auditors that would go ahead and audit the various businesses. Sometimes when I see these low prices on gasoline and/or cigarettes or some of the others that are high tax items, and I see there is price war going on, I kind of wonder if these merchants are paying the taxes that are due to the State of Nebraska or to the federal government. So I think we need to very carefully analyze this. I don't think we want to do with any less auditors. I would be in support of increasing the number of auditors that would be checking the merchants across the state.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I kind of think I have a tough row to hoe because I know that one of the primary arguments against making this amendment is that this will be the gate swinging open. When this gate swings open and this appropriations bill is brought back, then a lot of other cows will go