

interested in coming into this state, that is one of the first things they look at. Our sales tax rates, interestingly enough, which we're not talking about increasing, they are not among the highest in the United States. Our income tax rates are. It seems that when we find a tax here we want to ride it to the limit. Cigarettes we want to push to the top, property taxes, gas taxes, now income taxes. Recently, on a trip, and I think you can get this verified, in which the Burlington Northern president or chairman of the board was riding with Bob Kerrey and they were trying to get Burlington to move to Nebraska, he explained quite clearly to him why one of the big factors, maybe the biggest factor, why they wouldn't come to Nebraska, why they wouldn't move to Nebraska. He told him, I would not put our people in Nebraska, our top people, move our corporate headquarters there and be subjected to the excessive tax rates, they are too high, it would be unfair to our company to do it. When you talk about economic development, which we keep talking about, the development of new jobs, the development particularly of entrepreneurial activity, eventually you are going to drive it out if you make yourselves among the very top ones in the United States for income tax rates. You get any tax too excessive, it is going to do damage. I suggest that, yes, we have problems. We are going to have to face up to some difficult decisions in January that this is not the appropriate solution at this particular time. I full well know that there is no one, no lobbyist out there, never has been, representing the taxpayer in terms of people having to pay the tax. That is why I ask you to seriously consider this information. The only information you have received at this time is from the representatives of those who consume the tax dollars, and you know who they are. They are all our friends. But the point is, it is an unbalanced situation when the only picture presented to you is we need money, we need more money, we need a tax increase, you must do this. Unfortunately the taxpayer doesn't have somebody out there to represent them, really. The tax spenders, the consumers of these dollars, have tax financed, in most cases, lobbyists explaining why they need more money. So at least, before you vote to put this additional increase, give serious consideration to leaving it where it is and coming up with alternative solutions, if indeed solutions are necessary in January. With that said, Mr. President, I'll hand out the final material. I would ask that you take and read that Tollefson thing from Arthur Andersen. I ask