

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson, proceed.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, as many of you know, I grew up in Columbus, Nebraska, and when I was in the eighth grade in Columbus, Nebraska, my piano teacher, Johnny O'Neal, who is now a doctor in Clarkson, Nebraska, went on to become a doctor and one of the things I inherited from my piano teacher, Johnny O'Neal, was the organist position at the Episcopalian Church in Columbus, which was a very small church. I grew up a Methodist but I went over and played the organ at the Episcopalian Church. They had a lot of different hymns. They had a lot of different hymns than I had been accustomed to singing as a seventh grader and a sixth grader and a fifth grader in the Methodist Church. But one of the hymns that they had came down from the seventeenth century and I always remember the beginning of that hymn in hard times. It is a hymn that began, "Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide when to stand with truth or remain on falsehood's side." And I have always thought that is so true in human affairs. As Shakespeare said, "When taken at the tide, events can be grand, but if missed, if missed, then events are not so grand." Once to every man and nation, written in the seventeenth century, still a sexist hymn, doesn't say once to every person in the nation; once to every man and nation comes a moment to decide, and that is true now. The Governor gave us a package of cuts and increases, of cuts and increases. We have done the cut side. We have refused to do the increase side. This is the first part of the increase side, the little cigarette tax bill that only 19 people could support this morning and I say, let us begin to rebuild the castle. Let us begin to rebuild the revenue base. We did the cutting, now we do the revenue base, now we do the revenue base. And the only way this can begin is to reconsider the vote that we took. Now it doesn't take 25 votes to reconsider the vote that we took. It takes 30 votes to reconsider the vote that we took. So I am going to ask 11 members in this body above the 19 that voted for that bill to open their hearts and their consciences and their minds and their thoughts to permitting the reconsideration of the question. Later on I will ask people to vote for the bill, but I would at least like to have the opportunity to have the question reconsidered. That is all. So I would ask you to please decide and to decide to reconsider. As Senator Warner so ably pointed out, this is