

district a few years ago, at one time had 1,300 employees, now down to 500 because they make totally agricultural equipment, grain dryers and bins. Lindsay Manufacturing, the second biggest employer in my district, at one time, 950 employees, (sic), now down to 450. There is a decrease in two employers in my district of 1,300 jobs just because they make agricultural products. These are the sort of figures that made the famous or the infamous Schwendiman "Chicken Little" speech so offensive to many of us. I'd like to take Mr. Schwendiman out into greater Nebraska, as they say, and show him what the real world is like. We all think politically at times, we know that, and I could visualize the headline that would come out of such a vote as we did this morning, "Legislature Raises Taxes", with my name right underneath voting aye. How in the world would I go home and explain to these 1,300 people that I raised their taxes? We all saw the, with graphic clarity, what happened to Mr. Mondale running on a platform last November raising taxes. As the session unfolded I began to weaken a little bit, to soften in my opposition and I'll tell you why. I pretty much was locked in to vote on almost every budget cut that came across the board. The first major one I missed, I was in Omaha working. I think it was Senator Schmit's shift of 1 percent of sales tax from the Department of Roads to the General Fund. Had I been here, I assure you I would have voted for it, but it only got 13 votes. So much for that. The next big watershed issue, as I saw it, was Senator DeCamp's amendment, the 5 percent across-the-board cut in state aid. I did vote for it. It got 16 votes. There was a \$1.8 million item with DPI, a cut for DPI that I did vote for. It got 16 votes. I could go on and on with a few others, but those are three major items. Suffice it to say that it became clear to me that the handwriting was on the wall that the 17 or \$18 million Appropriation Committee budget cuts were probably about all that was politically feasible. It was all that we were going to do. Senator DeCamp and Senator Abboud, I believe, had proposals to take some money from the Cash Fund which I certainly would have supported. There was not an issue before us to vote on, as I see it, but I was desperate enough to vote for that. So it became apparent to me that my opposition to any tax increase was softening because as the Governor said in his veto message, we have a constitutional duty to uphold that Constitution and you know what it says as well as I do. The next step then as I saw it was to increase revenues. If we weren't able to cut the