

40 percent. I don't want to be a part of increasing any income tax as long as these people in Douglas County will be receiving their property tax assessment in the...some time in December and realize that we've not only raised the cigarette tax, we've raised the income tax and in some cases, doubled their property tax. I certainly will not be a party of that and that is the only reason that I would have gone, as Senator Tim Hall said, with the transfer of funds from the road funds and possibly go and expand the sales tax on services, without the sales tax on services on health care, but otherwise, I wanted to explain my vote because it is because of what is happening in Douglas County and I don't know about the other counties. I don't know if you're in the same situation as we are, but it's going to be a travesty in December when myself and everybody else living there receives their property tax assessment. It is going to be high and I'd like to relinquish at least one minute of my time to Senator Nichol.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you, Senator Labeledz, I appreciate it very much. I just want to make one point. I'm not arguing about what is before us at the moment, but I hope this kind of teaches us a lesson. Time after time, year after year we set a budget in this body based on predictions. Several people who predict to us who apparently don't have their ear to the ground or are listening to what is going on across the state, and they tell us we're in pretty good shape, we believe when we set a budget that is beyond what we have been taking in. It was nothing when the income was increasing year after year to...and not raising the levy, but to take the tax money since it was greater than the year before, take on new programs, fund them, we didn't have any problems. But when the sled started downhill things started to happen and it has happened now every year that I can remember since things turned around about five years ago. We set a budget that is too high. We don't fund it properly. We run out of money during the year and everybody sets into panic and we come down here and attempt to broaden the tax base as we say, and what it means is, socking it to the taxpayers some more. That's what we're doing again. I don't have any qualms with advancing 35 if you wish to do it, but for goodness sake, let's turn the thing around and know what we're doing more when we start into the budget and allocate the money for what we're doing rather than saying