

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, and Senator Hohenstein, I've said from the beginning I would vote to raise the income tax, I will. I'm not the one who says...stands around here and says the only way we can get some money is to cut it from some other program that might be pared to the bone now. I have said we ought to raise the taxes, and I said even when it comes to some of this stuff where we're disguising tax increases so people won't know what we're doing, we ought not do it that way. We ought to raise taxes. I gave the same argument when I opposed the state getting involved in the gambling business. I have opposed the state lottery. I have said that the state should raise the revenue it needs by way of taxation and I will support tax increases, but I won't support a tax increase for Omaha to put some money into an auditorium. We're not talking about that, we're talking about to carry out the general policies of the state and for that I would vote to raise the taxes. The difference between my representation and that of others is that people in my district know that if I disagree with them, I'm going to do what my judgment tells me I should do. I don't kowtow to the people in my district, not when I'm on this floor and not when I'm running for reelection. I just tell them you all ought to know what I've done in all this time and if you don't and you think somebody else can do a better job, put them down there. If you don't like what I've done, send somebody else down here. I'm the one who won reelection to this office by way of write-in, because at the same time I was running for the U.S. Senator and my name was on the ballot. And there are people in my district who don't like what I do. They don't like my approach, but they like more of what I do than they dislike of what I do. And on this floor, there is a position that I believe in that I'm going to maintain. I seem to be so out of step because so many of you say you believe the same thing or you actually believe the same thing, so when you run into an obstacle it's irritating, why can't I just roll over and go along like everybody else rolls over and goes along. I won't do that. But I will stick by an agreement that I have voluntarily entered into and that's what I'm doing. In fact, I stuck by it to such an extent that I didn't even offer the two amendments on one of the proposals that I said I had anticipated doing. This one, I'm sure, will have to be fought on Select File. The body is not of a mind to continue dealing with issues. After we've been here a certain amount of time, other people's brains slow down. Their physical energy diminishes, they become fatigued and they don't have the alertness to continue dealing with the issues we're sent down