

not. And, of course, if we overspent,...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...the Governor would veto and what have you. This year it's not a question of that, it's a question of we've taken the reductions, are we going to put it back in. It's a reversal of the argument, the situation is reversed, and that's why the process that we have here makes sense and needs to go on in this manner. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Warner. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I would just rise in support of what Senator Bernard-Stevens has done, which I think is probably the first time I've done that this year. And, hopefully, after I'm done speaking, he won't have to count to ten this time, so that will be a new experience, too. I think Senator Bernard-Stevens is exactly right. I think you have to do exactly what he said. You need to look at those pages, starting on page 36. You need to look at the P2, and you have to make a decision. You know, I hear a lot of people standing up and saying that they don't want to raise taxes. And, boy, it's not easy to stand up and say that you do want to raise taxes. It's not an easy thing to do, it's not an easy thing to tell your constituents. They don't like it, they don't understand it many times, and they don't appreciate it when you have to do it. But we have to also look at the fact that we have an obligation beyond getting reelected, or being popular with our constituency, and that is an obligation to run state government, and to provide services, and to do the things that we need to do to make sure that Nebraska's a good place to live, to do business, to raise your family. And the only way you can do some of those things is to have the revenue to do it. LB 22 provides us with some additional revenue to do some of the things we want to do in spending of state government. And Senator Bernard-Stevens is exactly right, you go through this budget book and you can see cut, after cut, after cut. Some of these cuts are very deep, some of them are going to hurt a lot. You know, we're cutting Medicaid, we're cutting the university budget, we're cutting some of the very basic things that state government needs to do. I don't think this is an unreasonable tax, we have not raised this tax in a number of years, it is looking for a revenue source that is available to us and