

that if you're lucky, if you're lucky you get by until next year to make those decisions. And as Senator Warner said, it's a heck of a thing where we leave the budget in the situation where next year I'm not going to be around to vote for tax increases. But I think you've got to do one or the other. And if you're unlucky though what may happen come June, July and August, what has happened more than once in the last is that things start going a little south. We saw the market this week. We've seen interest rates. We've seen some things to make us nervous. It doesn't take much of a hiccup for things to get a whole lot worse. I mean if you walk out of here next Friday with a \$10 million problem, with a few hiccups and little gurgles, it's become a \$200 million problem. And then you're talking about special session and things like that, and if you're not going to raise sales...if you're not going to own up to a tax increase this year, you're not about to do it right before election. So you're going to go back in and cut some of the things we put in right now. As Senator Byars stated, you can make an argument this is only a one-time appropriation, though it's certainly shown across the sheet every year, as it should be, because these would be the cruelest thing. I mean it's cruel enough to take it away from teachers after one year. It is obscene to take it away from people like this after one year, and you're not going to do it and you shouldn't. But you may well be in a situation if you don't want to raise taxes either before election or after election, you're going to have to make some significant cuts, and things like this you're going to have to look at. And the problem is it's things like this that nobody wants to vote no against, and I understand that. Also the problem is that in recent years if the budget pie does not grow by adding revenue to it, and I don't tend to support things like that, and most of us don't, many of my...many people that say they're voting for this I know will never vote for a tax increase, if you don't vote for the tax increase and you vote for this, it's going to come from someplace else. You know, in recent years, whether you liked it or not, go back five years ago, higher education was 22 percent of our budget, this year it's 19 percent, next year it's going to be below that. I've been as critical of higher education spending as anybody on this floor in recent years, but I'm telling you that's a trend that causes me great concern. That's an investment in our future that, yes, we need to spend money wisely there, but you just can't continue to increase that aid portion of the pie to individuals without some consequences on your investment in the State of Nebraska. If you're not willing to vote for the tax