

opportunity to reinforce our words, our rhetoric, by our action. Not a person in this body ought to vote against this bill. This bill should be wholeheartedly supported simply because it is right.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator George. Senator George passes. The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I hope the Page will pass out the material that I was preparing for the body. The existing notices, as any informed attorney will tell you, have very little negligible value. I have had on my desk letters from many attorneys on behalf of their clients stating we are paying for notices that are doing no good. For example, yesterday I received one from one of the very best lawyers in Lincoln who has done a lot of probate work. He said, I have been in the practice thirty years and not a single probate that I have ever done had this notice be effective at bringing in unknown people to the probate. This notice is unnecessary. Now, if the notice is unnecessary, and until we hear some facts to the contrary, I think we should assume that that is the case. If the notice is unnecessary, why is it there? Well, that is an interesting question, and I would submit to you that the material that is being put on your desk answers that question. If you will see it's sort of a modest proposal, if you will, but it is in essence an attempt to be more accurate than anything else in the analysis of this bill. This is a tax, a kind of a tax...a newspaper tax, if you will, and you are all being handed out your tax statement. Your tax statement says how much your estate is going to have to pay upon your death to enrich the newspapers of the State of Nebraska. Now it is between 75 and 125 dollars. I have used the low figure. I have used \$75.00, but let's assume it is \$100.00 per probate. There are roughly 25,000 probates a year. That is \$2,500,000. What do we get for our \$2,500,000? What do the citizens of the state of Nebraska get for their \$2,500,000? Nothing...absolutely nothing. Now I want to know if the members of the conservative coalition, if the members who regard themselves as fiscal moderates, as those of us who regard ourselves as urban senators and those of you who are rural senators, want to spend \$2,500,000 of the public's money for nothing. That is a tax as surely as anything we pass, and I want to know if you want the citizens of this state to pay that tax notice, and if you do let's have a red button on 498, and if you don't...if you don't think that \$2,500,000 every year for citizens putting out from their estates upon their death that they cannot pass to their heirs because of this bill, then I