

income tax returns, they begin to more fully discover what the Governor and the last Legislature accomplished on May 8 last enacting LB 773. That bill moved Nebraska away from a relatively uncomplicated individual income tax system to one of greater of complexity and substantially higher administrative costs for the claimed benefit of improved tax stability. Undeniably, it also resulted in a tax shift, I will repeat that, a tax shift from what would have been the Nebraska pattern, a shift of tax burden, shift of tax burden away from the highest income earners to those in the middle income level and slightly below. I would like to read just a few comments that I have received from some of the letters. You remember last year when this bill was being sold to us by the Revenue Committee and the Governor's office there was a big conference downstairs and we had this big video tape production and it showed all the little figures and all the little brackets. It was kind of like video tax arcade, you know, you had all this down and it all supposedly made sense. It all showed a real...not a significant tax increase at all. But here are the letters I'm receiving from individual citizens. They are individual responses to the tax system. Joe Sitma from Ceresco writes. "Someone in our Statehouse needs a refresher course in basic math. If my memory serves me right, I was led to believe that there would be no increases in our state taxes. Well, my math comes out different. After having my taxes computed recently, I find that my state tax burden has risen 468 percent over last year, with less income. Responsible supporters of this state should make their feelings known about such inequities." Another letter from a Charles Schneider of Nebraska City. He writes, "Our new Nebraska tax law is a dandy. Revenue neutral, hogwash. Where else but in Nebraska would they raise the taxes of the elderly and the retirees and give tax breaks to multimillion dollar corporations and the affluent? I am a retiree, over 65, living on a fully taxable pension and when my state income tax increase by over \$100 a year, it hurts." I have another letter. This one is from a Bernie Grossman in Lincoln. "I may not have the best memory but I do remember the Governor saying that there would not be any tax increases. Not being an accountant, I might be wrong, but when one's state income taxes increase by over 35 percent from the previous year, to me, that is a tax increase. While our 1987 income went up less than 3 percent for the year, I found it hard to comprehend the tax increase we had to endure. Once again, the middle income American has to foot the bill for the wealthy. So here's to the corporate executives and the rest of their cronies and politicians that they have in