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FLOOR DEBATE

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our property tax relief effort as it relates to local governments, schools, and the rest, this is the bill that will allow you to do it. If you want to talk about broadening the base so that we reflect the marketplace of our region, and so that we reflect the majority of states in the United States of America, and if you're willing to do that, and sometimes people in politics aren't willing to do it, even though the majority of the world is saying it's good policy, even though it might have prevented some of what we're facing, then this is the bill to do it. This bill, together with Senator Raikes' LB 540 to follow, together with the work of the Appropriations Committee, are all the sides of the circle or the square, whatever it is, that we will need to fully participate as a coequal branch of government in what the resolution of this will be for and on behalf of all the people, as it affects all of the people. And doing something that large, that significant, and that enormous requires time. It requires exposure. It requires news cycles. It requires rounds of debate. But since we already have turned what was...

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...I'll accept Senator Thompson's rather continuous drumbeat on, that's how I see it, on smoking and taxing smokers. And it's now been, we've had public notice it's going to be taken away from her, so I...while I considered the motive innocent enough, this is a real important opportunity to say that if somebody wants to do that other than Senator Thompson they have to come talk to us. And we have to know what the whole plan is. So this defeat of this amendment, whether you believe in it or not, is symbolically and strategically very, very important in my personal opinion. I urge the defeat of the Thompson amendment. I urge the advancement of the first division, and I urge that we continue to devote ourselves to this worthwhile discussion about the whole of public policy as it relates to revenue and spending in the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Brashear. The Chair recognizes Senator Connealy.