

situation. In fact, I think it has to be because if the present interest policies continue for an extended time, they will probably destroy the economy of the nation. So I think it is unreasonable to change the interest cost to that taxpayer and many of them poor taxpayers on unpaid tax bills and change it in law and watch that ride in the law books maybe for years when we are dealing with a temporary situation that does not justify it. I appeal to the body not to increase the interest charges because of a temporary situation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Just one thing that hasn't been brought up before, and for those people who are interested in investing your money, for those people who are interested in the tie interest that is being paid across this nation and across the world, the prime interest rate yesterday in one of the major banks of New York dropped one-half a percent. The law in Nebraska is very explicit. We are not going to raise our interest rates with the federal reserve system when they want to cut off the supply of money or when they want to increase the supply of money by controlling inflation. The prime interest rate, the 11% that is in Nebraska, the 9% that we have now is the rate that we should follow. Under no circumstances should we follow the federal reserve system and penalize the people of Nebraska who are hard run. Please kill the whole darn bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this point was debated at great length in the Revenue Committee and one of the facts that was brought to our attention is that the majority of tax delinquent property is not business property. It is homeowner property and the reasons for the tax delinquency very simply are that homeowners have faced temporary setbacks, to wit; there has been a marital separation; there has been a death in the family; there has been an illness; there has been unemployment; there has been some other problem that has caused the homeowner not to have the ability temporarily to pay his or her taxes. These are not the kinds of persons who are making decisions about paying or not paying taxes on pure economic reasons. These are not the individuals who are determining not to pay the taxes so that they can use the money in other business operations. These are people who are not paying taxes because they do not have the wherewithal at the time to pay the taxes. That is the majority