

April 2, 1980

LB 608

security along with his \$2,500 or \$3,000 a year income plus any interest and dividends he may have on a meager savings in the bank, they are going to end up going back on the tax rolls for a certain amount, not entirely, a certain percentage. Under my bill because their taxable income is only \$2,500 or \$3,000 or less than the federal required amount, those people under my bill would get a 100% exemption. Under 608 they would go back on the tax rolls and that is the problem we've got now, Senator Venditte, because of the reevaluation. We have put a lot of elderly back on the tax rolls.

SENATOR VENDITTE: And, Senator Carsten, as a result of reevaluation, don't you think that as Chairman of the Revenue Committee that it would have been the consensus or the feeling of the committee that maybe one of the things that we could do to maybe provide some kind of relief to the homeowners of this state would be to raise the homestead exemption that has been afforded to most...to all Nebraskans who qualify, who own a home? But I don't understand, Senator Carsten, why that particular bill that would have raised the homestead is now...we are doing just the opposite. It is something that I don't think that the people of this state want but maybe you could just maybe explain the rationale of the committee in terms of their action. That question is of Senator Carsten, please.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. Speaker, I was asking Senator Carsten a question relative to...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten, do you yield?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Venditte, that of course is the question that we feel this bill does address. There are those who because of the increase in valuation are now going to become responsible for some tax revenues. However, their responsibility and the extent of their responsibility will be governed by their ability as far as income is concerned, to pay. They are not going, even if they do not have to pay anything now, they will not have to pay the full amount under our bill but will be governed according to their ability and their income. So they are going to get some relief. If we raise the amount which your bill that you had in committee would, yes, but, Senator Venditte, our philosophy was and is that there are many in the state that receive that mediocre amount that is insignificant in comparison to their total responsibilities that do not need it or want it even. They get it, yes, but do they realize