

benefits I think is a very poor public policy and I would say again that I think it is a very unhealthy trend in the United States at this time to somehow attack the veteran, to deny the benefits to the veteran, to try and somehow blame the veteran, if you will for some of the mistakes that we have made in our foreign policy. So with that, I would join in striking this amendment, returning Senator Pirsch's bill to the small original concept which she had. I don't think the Nebraska Legislature needs to jump on the bandwagon that has been started in Washington to take away benefits from our veterans.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Well, Mr. President and colleagues, after listening to three speakers on this, finally Senator Fowler alluded to the fact that there is an income qualification that we are trying to establish through the Landis-Peterson amendment and this is sound and nobody is attacking the veteran, Senator Fowler. In fact, we want to provide the benefits to those veterans who need them, the needy veterans but we do not want to provide homestead exemption at the expense of the elderly, at the expense of the middle class, at the expense of the lower class, for veterans that are living in a hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty thousand dollar homes and providing him homestead exemptions to that category of recipient. This is exactly the kind of thing we need to be straightening out. We need to set criteria whereby those that need the benefits get, in fact, the benefits rather than everybody, irregardless of need. Yes, it is difficult. If you are used to being on the dole and living in that in that two hundred and fifty or three hundred thousand dollar home and having a homestead exemption, it is difficult then suddenly to pay your property taxes and that is, in fact, what we are asking some of these people to do is, in fact, if they can afford, if they have the income, if they have the money, if they have the dollars, then they, in fact, do not or are not entitled to tax incentives through the homestead exemption whereby that the other people in the block, the average middle class type individual, we are asking them to pay these benefits for these type of recipients. So I urge that we stick by the Landis-Peterson amendment. It is not that complicated. To lament the fact that the only reason I oppose this is because it hasn't a public hearing is ludicrous. The issue is very sound and it is very simple. You either set a criteria or you don't set a criteria based on income for these kind of benefits. That is the issue and I think it is a sound, solid issue. In fact, I think one of the things that, brought out in the campaign by President Reagan, actually increased the amount of welfare benefits to the California recipients by elimi-