

nating a lot of those people who qualify who are not eligible or abusing. You see, we hear this story over and over again, the food stamp situation and how many times have we heard about those people not eligible or not in need, eligible for food stamps, and this is the same kind of issue and here is the chance to get a hold of it and a chance to correct it. This issue basically is setting an income criteria. If somebody makes 60, 70, 80, 90, a 100 thousand dollars a year, right now if this amendment is not detached, would be eligible for some of these homestead exemptions by the mere basis that they are a veteran or disabled veteran and that is not right. That is not right and this is not free money. This is paid for by somebody else and I don't mind being asked to pay my share of those that are in need but when you take away that need criteria and you get in my pocket to help those that, in fact, that are making more money than I am, I resent it and I resent it strongly. And so I think we have made the right step with Senator Peterson and Senator Landis' amendment and I think we ought to stick with that step, be consistent and not undo what has already been done.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Saturday was the day that the veterans and the veterans' widows were all cued in to call Shirley Marsh. My first call started at seven forty-five. There were seventeen during the day, not all from my legislative district because some people told me where they lived and I told them whose district they were in. However, the purpose was to do exactly what the proposal before us is but I took time to tell each person who called that it was my intent that the individuals, whether that individual was a veteran or not a veteran, but was low income and had physical problems, that individual needed the state's dollars as a supporting mechanism. But I went on to say that I did not feel that simply because an individual was a veteran but had a higher income, I did not feel that we should be providing the homestead exemption which had been provided in the past and by taking time to inform each person who called me with one exception, each of them agreed with me. Now I have to tell you one did not agree with me but out of seventeen I thought that was a pretty good percentage. I do not expect to vote for the proposed amendment which is offered to us now. I feel that it is a very reasonable amendment which was added to LB 478. I support the concept of a needs criteria. The State of Nebraska does not have unlimited dollars. We need to make wise decisions to make those dollars stretch where there is need, not simply the magic word, veteran, and as most of