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part to indicate that. To my knowledge he is the only individual who qualifies under the language that we delete or put under the income guidelines and he was the one who thought it was a wise idea. The language itself that Senator Beutler just referred to is this. "Veterans who are totally disabled by a nonmilitary accident or illness." That is the language we are applying this income standard to so it does clean up just a couple of the ideas that have been discussed here on the floor. I suppose I can agree to the idea of a hearing being necessary or important in most cases. This bill was discussed. You just had a member of the committee discuss this, saying that it was brought up in the committee. It also has been on the floor two years ago. It is not a new idea and has been discussed around this body in the past. So it is not an idea that has simply been sprung on the body. Essentially we have a privilege that is contained in these sections of law, a privilege based on a status. The privilege is this kind of special tax break that is granted not because of need, not because of any proven lack of basic human necessity, but simply because somebody has arrived at this status in life, that, therefore, the state is going to forgive them a certain amount of the normal tax obligations that other citizens have. Now at the time this was considered on Select File, we had a full discussion. There was no objection because of the hearing. There was no objection because of the lateness of the hour. The amendment passed 26 to 0. I see that seven of the names that supported the amendment, as a matter of fact, also have signed this letter from the Veterans Council and apparently probably have changed their votes between Select File and Final Reading on these procedural questions but in fact we know what is at work here. We know that selective groups, very powerful groups have been lobbying this issue and have demanded the retention of their privilege rather than having an income standard being applied to them. Well, I have to salute their political power. I do not salute, however, the social policy that you are about to enact in the event you pass the Wagner-Fitzgerald amendment at this point. In essence you are saying that we have a social policy that gives a tax benefit or a tax break without regard to need, and if that is the policy this body believes in, I want the people of the State of Nebraska to know it, because I thought when they voted for Ronald Reagan in the amount that they did, they were saying we want a different philosophy of government. We want a new philosophy that doesn't have any sacred cows but justifies tax dollar expenditures on the basis of need, not for those people who can get by, not for those people who are milking the system, be they welfare cheaters or food stamp users or those hot lunch utilizers and the people out there milking the system. I thought that

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