

Select File. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the amendment offered by Senator McFarland. Senator Haberman, followed by Senators Landis and Lamb.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, Mr. President and members of the body, it was stated here on the floor and I heard it in other places that why should a senior citizen be entitled to some sort of a benefit. The statement was also said that they are the ones that usually have all the money anyway. Well, there are a lot of senior citizens who do not have a lot of money, but I would like to call to the attention of this body some of the reasons, in my opinion, that senior citizens are entitled to whatever discount education break that they can receive. Now the senior citizens paid for and built the interstate. The senior citizens paid for and built the sidewalks that go by your homes. This was all done back when they were your age. I do not know how many K through 12 classes have turned over in the high schools that the senior citizens paid for. There must be dozens of them and they are still paying for education, and the vast majority of them do not have any students in the schools. They are now paying for, you might say, their grandchildren and your children. They are paying their share through their taxes, but they have already paid one share. Now they are asked to pay another share. You do not hear them complaining about this. I don't know how many new state office buildings or state buildings they have built. I don't know how many they have remodeled on the campuses of the schools. I don't know how much money they have contributed for this, but you had better believe it is a lot of money. Now these senior citizens, when they used to change the diapers of their youngsters, they didn't have disposable diapers. They did it the hard way, and they did their share of that. Also, there were not day care centers to take care of their children. They stayed home and took care of them. Now I fully realize that times have changed and possibly we do need day care centers, but they didn't have it in their day and age. Now let's look at one more example here, let's go to World War II. Basically, the majority of these senior citizens served in World War II. A lot of them died, a lot of them were wounded, but the majority of them came home, but what did they give up in World War II? They gave up three to four years of their freedom, three to four years of their freedom where somebody told them where to go and what to do and how to do it. They lost their income. Some of them lost their