

I were the only two Republicans up there that voted for that. I don't vote party when it comes to these kinds of measures. I try to vote for what I think is fair. And if I understand from what Senator Wesely said, those that were making 90,000 and over received the best benefit from the changes that we did make. And I would have been very willing to increase their bracket just a little bit and then give the difference to those other people. I am not going to vote in favor of the committee amendments, because I...we all, we all believe, Senator Schellpeper, it wasn't that simple. We did read our bill. We did have staff who helped us with it. We were told, by the Revenue Committee and those people who were supposed to be the experts in that area, that it was not going to increase the taxes for the people of the State of Nebraska. I believed them now. I believed them wrong, I was wrong in my belief and I take the blame for that, I have for months. I have said for a long time we made a mistake, let's be up front about it, let's correct it. And I want to correct the mistake we made. I'm not going to stand here and talk about the fact that let's keep that extra 18, 20 or 26, whatever it is, million dollars, they won't miss it. Like heck they won't. They know they took a tax increase, and we said we didn't intend for them to have one, so now I'm voting on the side of giving it back to the people. Senator Johnson would like to have the rest of my time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson, a little less than three minutes.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Smith. How much time?

SPEAKER BARRETT: About two forty-five.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Oh, that's more time than I'll need. Mr. President, members, as I've listened to the debate this morning, or this afternoon I should say, most of the debate has centered around whether LB 773 was a tax increase or not, whether we knew it or not, and I guess the question of whether...whose paying that tax increase, if it was a tax increase. And, personally, I don't give a damn about any of those arguments. What I'm interested in, right at this particular point, is assessing whether providing an income tax adjustment here is a priority. The answer, of course, logically is yes. I think we need to be discussing whether we can find a way of making it a priority in this session. But the question I have, and I've not heard the arguments yet, is whether or not