

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Mr. President and members, Senator Hannibal, excuse me, but give me a break, Gary, will you? You know I started out by offering the amendment and saying that it is the only amendment that I intend to offer to the bill. You have got no good argument for the amendment so you, in essence, hassle me or attack me because I offer it at the last minute. If you will check, and check with any member of the Revenue Committee, I do not support this issue when we discussed it. I did not support this issue when we pulled two provisions of the bill out, and I did not support advancing the bill to the floor. So I am clean all the way through. The issue of a handwritten amendment is one where you say you strike Section 2. If that is difficult to understand, I guess we should adopt a rules amendment and say, a rules change that only amendments that are written and posted in the Journal for a day are amendments that we will listen to or consider. The issue here is one of tax policy. We don't even understand what we are doing with this provision but, yet, it is in there for one reason and one reason only, and that is because it looks good. Now that is, you know, Senator Hefner, there is no reason to introduce a bill and introducing a bill would cost as much, probably, as the effect of this legislation for the people that are going to benefit from it. This is not something that is going to help the elderly, but we are going to use it as an excuse or a reason for helping the elderly. It is the only provision of the bill that I will not support at this point, but you don't want to give it good, fair discussion because you just want to ride the bill right along. So you use the excuse of hassling the bill with a handwritten amendment. That is ridiculous. I mean, sit down, discuss the issue, and see if it does what it purports to do. It does not. Find out about it. Check it. See if somebody who has a hundred, two hundred thousand dollars of tax exempt bonds, and, yes, they could be from outside the state because adjusted gross income is what comes down from the federal, and those bonds are still tax exempt at the federal level, whether they are Nebraska bonds or not. The issue is one of is this good tax policy? I state that it is not, that it does not help the very poor elderly, those who do not even file tax returns, even though it pretends to. This clearly is a charade. This is something that we should not pass. We should not adopt this provision. We should adopt the Hall amendment. It is already on the books. Next year I do