

the bulk of Nebraskans that are paying the serious increase in income taxes that we've experienced from this bill and so in my estimation to bring fairness back to those working people, the individuals that make up the bulk of our population that haven't got the sort of resources that our higher income people have that are having to pay that significant increase in taxes. Those are the people I want to target and bring more tax relief to and at the same time recognize that the high-income individuals have gotten tremendous breaks in the income tax system and that some slight readjustment backwards on that upper bracket is in order and justified. And, again, I appreciate Senator Nelson's support.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hannibal, please, followed by Senator Hefner, then Senator Moore.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose the amendment quite naturally. What Senator Wesely's goals are, very similar to mine with one exception. Senator Wesely, with this amendment would ask that you create what we referred to back there in the budget debates with 773, a super bracket, and I was opposed to the super bracket back then and I am opposed to it now. I do recognize he is trying to offset by increasing his personal exemption somewhat, to offset that, but the net increase is an increase in the total tax break, I believe, to a figure that is higher than what the bill anticipates. If you want to go to a super bracket, I can give you some testimony by some people that are fairly familiar to the Revenue Committee hearings and fairly familiar to the people on this floor that would suggest that the higher up income brackets upon reflection did not get a tax break, testified on Senator McFarland's bill when he had it in committee that suggested that the over \$75,000 area really had no increase in tax breaks. However, Senator Wesely is correct that the lower and middle-income brackets with 773 did increase the burden on those people and that is exactly what 739 is trying to address by reducing those marginal rates down to pre-1986 level so that we are giving back or cutting the tax rate down to where we thought it was going to be when we passed LB 773. I don't have a lot of conversation on it. I would urge that you reject the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner is next, but may I introduce some guests in the north balcony, guests of Senators Lynch, Senator Pirsch and Senator Chambers. We have 9 students from St. Paul