

session kill the bill. Now I like to return taxes...tax dollars to the taxpayers. The people in Omaha, my constituents enjoy it when they get their taxes reduced. People in Lincoln like it when they get their taxes reduced. As a matter of fact, I have found throughout the state that citizens enjoy it when the state gives back money, gives back money that they feel should be rightfully theirs. A few years ago when we passed LB 773 I opposed that bill because of the fudge factor, the additional money that was to be made up at that time. Some of the members that supported the bill said that if there is any increase in those taxes, we will gladly return them back to the taxpayers. So when we had a special session last year and there was a resolution by one of the members that talked about a special session to reduce tax rates I supported that resolution. And this year when there was a bill introduced to return the taxes back to those taxpayers I supported it on the first round, I supported it on the second round and I'm going to be supporting it here today because I feel that the Legislature made a commitment that there would be no tax increase. Now it's debatable at this time whether taxes went up or when they went down. I guess that's something that is going to be resolved in the coming years. But, as far as I'm concerned, the taxpayers are entitled to this amount and the people that that money was taken from, I feel, after analyzing the figures, are the same people that paid into it. So we are as close as possible returning those tax dollars to the people that put them in. I think this is just good politics. This is just good politics. You're not going to make any enemies by returning those tax dollars. You're going to make people happy. It will help the economy. Vote for the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise in sort of a unique and unusual circumstance because I rise to defend the Governor's piece of legislation dealing with tax relief, unusual, very much for me considering the chain of events we have gone through in the past year. But I have voted for this bill from the beginning. I have also tried to amend the bill from the beginning as I have offered alternative tax relief legislation that would provide greater relief to the middle income taxpayers, that would provide for an upper bracket...that would provide for greater equity in our tax system by having our high income pay a slightly higher amount on income taxes and turning that money and turning it back into higher personal