

tax relief which is due and payable to the people of the State of Nebraska. You know, years ago when the state depended on property tax for its...its income we did not have the problem of gyrations in income to the extent we do now. I don't want to go back to property tax but, at least, the income was relatively stable. Now we have the situation with the sales and income tax funding the General Fund where the income is less stable. It goes up and down. The problem with that is that the Legislature has a tendency to not return that money to the people, not reduce tax rates. The Legislature has a tendency to expand programs to spend more money rather than return the money to the people. So this is a bill which does cut the rate, which does subtract less money from the people of the State of Nebraska and so I think it should be passed. I would relinquish the rest of my time to Senator Hannibal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hannibal, about three minutes.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I rise, of course, to oppose the return motion and yet I know that there is nothing that we can say or any of us have said on the microphones right now that is going to change anybody's mind on how they intend to vote on this issue so I question sometimes why I am going to say anything. But, nevertheless, since the opponents of the bill have raised some issues, I think it is important for me very quickly to reinstate the purpose of LB 739 so that it can be part of our discussion today too and that is very simply LB 773, as was mentioned before, was an attempt to change our tax system back in 1986, I believe it was, and it was an attempt to do so and stay revenue neutral. And those of us that voted for 773 voted, many of us, I know that I did and I have heard many of you on the floor say in debates before today that our intention was to be revenue neutral. We knew that there could be a fudge factor, if you will, eight to \$10 million in there which was not imprudent at that time. We found out that there was at least that last year and what did we do? We passed 1234 of last year and gave \$10 million back to taxpayers in the form of LB 1234 of last year. This is the second half of that. We knew, starting this year, that we did have an increase in taxes. LB 739 is the answer, it is the fulfillment of a pledge of myself, of the Governor, of those of you who voted it as I did in favor of 773 to say it was not our intention to raise your taxes and here is our pledge back to you to make that a tax revenue, realizing we can't go back, realizing this doesn't go into a rebate situation but says now we don't...we