

SENATOR WITHEM: Why don't I waive off at this point and let Senator Schmit speak again, and then I'll close, if there is no one else to speak.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: We're going to be arguing again on this floor, spending a lot of time speaking about taxes. We're going to be talking about how you're going to cut down the taxes of the homeowner. The proposal the Governor has offered may possibly raise the tax on the homeowner by \$100, or 12 percent, depending upon where you're at. If you're in Sarpy County, it doesn't raise it that much, I think only 4 percent, and you're going to get a big dividend back in the form of a surcharge rebate of some kind, if you can figure that out. Ladies and gentlemen, the worst taxes this body imposes upon people are those that are hidden, taxes that are hidden under the guise of safety, under the guise of public interest, under the guise of improving the environment. Ladies and gentlemen, a large portion of it is nonsense. A large portion of it is designed to provide an opportunity in business for certain people, and to exclude others, that's all it boils down to. That's what we have done with this system as it exists today. You've got 70 licensed tank installers in the State of Nebraska. That's a bunch of nonsense. It's a bunch of nonsense. If there isn't at least...at least several in every county, then someone is going to have to increase the cost. And I'd ask you one more thing, what about these tanks that have been installed for the last 80 years? Most of them didn't give us much trouble. The contamination we have, ladies and gentlemen, comes from the fact that when you fill your tank at most of these stations, and we're going to have more of it now that we have self-service stations, from time to time you run the station (sic) over. For years we threw the used oil out behind the filling station. For years we were not careful about that. Most of the contamination did not come from ordinary underground leaks, ladies and gentlemen, it came from just the use and abuse of 80 years of existence. Today, because the federal government, and god help us from them, decided that we needed to upgrade the system, passed an underground tank bill, and I suppose, who knows, the tank manufacturers probably have a multimillion dollar lobbyist back there who...to whom some congressman owed something, and they passed the bill. It's a bunch of trash, it's a bunch of nonsense. And I don't care who says so, we are going to, one of