

I urge you to keep our existing tax policy without making any additional runs on the bank. And, for that reason, I support the committee amendments and, with them, LB 1240.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I tried to make some changes to the committee amendments the other evening, I was unsuccessful. So I simply rise to support the committee amendments and the committee amendments themselves become the bill as come out of the Revenue Committee. So, with that, I simply rise to support the committee amendments and the measure.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members, the committee amendments, of course, are an attempt to limit the tax credits that can be earned, and the benefits that can be earned. As I recall, under the legislation which is being copied here, it's the 270 program, the benefits for new jobs created are substantially less than accrue to the individual companies who cooperate under the 775 legislation. I do not know if this is sufficient to do the job which Senator Hartnett wants to do or not. I guess I have to have some reservations about the entire exemption process whereby we continually exempt one entity after another at the expense of the whole, and I think the whole being the individual taxpayer who always winds up with the burden. I've been getting reports from my constituents who have told me of the increase in their valuation, and the shock that they have learned upon the increase of the valuation. Of course the stock answer is, well it doesn't make any difference because we'll just lower the levy. But unfortunately the tax bill is always up also. And one of my constituents called me the other day and said, I just made \$15,000 overnight, my house went up from 16-5 to 79-5, so I made 15,000. Unfortunately, he said, I tried to borrow some money at the bank on my house, they appraised it at 56,000. So my concern is, I guess, where is the bottom line, and who does, in the final analysis, pick up the burden for the exemptions which we built into this system? It's a little bit disconcerting to me to note that as we continually provide these exemptions and these incentives for business, and businesses continue to grow and expand in Nebraska, that we discover that we have not created any new jobs, the job base has become static and, number two, that the general tax burden continues to grow. And I'm going to withhold my judgment on the bill for some time