

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, I know we're talking about an amendment to an amendment that has to do with a class of personal property and I'm going to support the amendment. But at the same time it's interesting that Senator Moore, mentioned, for example, that people are talking about property tax and homeowners, in particular, this would not be in their best interest. I would like to remind everybody that hardly anything we've ever done when the exemptions are involved, especially for personal property, has been in the best interest of homeowners. So I, for one, will continue to talk about homeowners and how everything we offer, including amendments to an amendment, affects those homeowners. It's very simple. Every time you talk about this kind of an amendment, think at the same time about making up the difference for the homeowners. Remember back in 1972, whenever it was, when the first four exemptions went on they were partial and it was fully funded and homeowners were, in fact, held harmless as a result of that. In 1978 when those four exemptions...when those four categories of exemptions were, in fact, totally exempt a pool of \$70 million was supposedly developed to reimburse local jurisdictions. I don't know if that \$70 million was ever fully funded and some of you may not be listening to this but please keep it in mind or we'll remind you some other way that in today's dollars those exemptions are worth about 280 million bucks. So what did you do with those exemptions? You passed it along to the homeowners. So don't stand up here and say if you really want to help homeowners, you've got to stop talking about this kind of an exemption. Thank goodness we did start talking about this kind of an exemption because it gave us an excuse to tell you what's been happening to the homeowners all this time we've been living with these exemptions. So whenever you talk about these kinds of things, at the same time, think in your mind hold homeowners harmless and then I will take seriously all this rhetoric about what we should do to protect business in the State of Nebraska. You know, it's nice and it's true, and the reason I support this because I am sympathetic to the inventory tax being taken off, I really am, but we take that off because a business might move or because we want our businesses in this state to compete with other states that's a legitimate argument. However, again think of the homeowner. When you pass along the responsibility for the homeowner to make up that difference or the property owner to make up that difference, can they all move? Most people that are working for a living in this state and working for other people just can't pack up and leave like a business because they're mad at the inventory tax or they can't