

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I think it is something we need to do.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I guess my question then is, if it is fair in a year, why isn't it fair now? Why do we have to wait a year in order to make something we think that's not correct make it correct, and I guess that's what bothers me is that...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...we're using...we're taking (inaudible)...

SENATOR BEUTLER: My rationale...

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...people that you don't think we should be taking to use for our benefit and then say, okay, now we're not going to use them anymore, we're going to...I mean I just don't understand the rationale in that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The rationale is this, Senator, because I don't base my judgment on the policy...on the question of fairness. I don't think fairness has anything to do with it. What you're essentially doing with this, as I understand it, is exempting from state income taxes of any state very significant portions, if not all, of the income of certain companies. I don't think that's fair. I think this bill is unfair, as a matter of fact. But I'm supporting the bill because I think that in the competitive situation that we're in it's necessary.

SENATOR VRTISKA: You're supporting the bill for the same reason I am, and I agree with you. I don't think it's fair to anybody. But when we get into this race of who can attract the most people by giving the most benefits we're kind of caught up in it, there's not much we can do about it if we expect to keep some of our economic development programs in place. And I think that's the only choice we have. I just have one other thing that...thank you, Senator Beutler. I have one other thing I want to add into this discussion while we're here. And I appreciate the fact that Senator Warner brought this up. I would hope that he would follow through and find out a way to attract some of our agriculture people to also stay in Nebraska by adjusting our agriculture situation, tax load, in a different direction. I can name you, as we talk about manufacturing plants, some of our biggest operators in my part of the district are moving into Missouri, and the only reason they're moving to Missouri is because of the tax burden. Their taxes on land down