

subsidy, could be applied. I am very strongly of the opinion that what's...part of what's wrong with the federal government and the way it does things, and to a much lesser extent even our own problem here in the state of Nebraska, and the reason that the taxpayers are so upset with us, is because we have used government as a vehicle to redistribute income, not only to the very poorest of us who need the help, but we have used it in so many different ways to redistribute income within the middle class for one purpose or another. My philosophy of government is that we ought not to be doing this except for the very lowest classes and except to the extent that we realistically have money to do that, can afford to do it, and I would be one of those that would struggle to find the money to help these people, but there is only so much we can do at any particular point in time. And so what I'm getting to, what this amendment does, is to limit the applicability of the money that is being created here, of this fund, limits it to low income people as defined as being at or below 150 percent of poverty. And my theory is simply this, let's start with that group, and I've passed out a couple of charts to you. That group is not small; 320,000 people in this state are in families of 150 percent of poverty or less, 320,000 people. Now it doesn't take too many math calculations to tell you that's a lot of money, just to help those people, if you're going to supplement, in one form or another, their ability to have their rents lowered, or the price of buying houses lowered by even as much as 20, 30 or 40 dollars. It comes to a huge pile of money. We probably...I mean I don't see where right now we're going to find the money to help all of those at 150 percent of poverty or less. I also passed out for you a chart showing the poverty guidelines and you can see there, for different size families, what the poverty level is and what 150 percent of poverty is. So with this guideline, if you had a, for example, mother with two children, as long as their income was roughly under \$19,000, they would be able to be assisted through the application of this particular trust fund. That's the philosophy behind the amendment. That's what the amendment does, and I present that for your consideration. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schimek, to speak to the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Madam President, members of the body, I rise I guess to speak to the Beutler amendment. I