

March 25, 1996

LB 299, 1085, 1114  
LR 206

here, could you keep your conversations down and give some attention to the speaker?

SENATOR HILGERT: Also, thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to demonstrate my personal belief that the homestead exemption is the best vehicle to lower property taxes for homeowners without giving up local control and to stimulate private home ownership and redevelopment of our inner city neighborhoods. By making home ownership more affordable, we help individuals achieve for what many is the American dream. Senator Warner and others have said that 1114, 1085, 299, et cetera, are just the beginning. We need to prepare to work for the long haul. This idea of building in a substantial homestead exemption in Nebraska's tax scheme I believe needs to be included in that discussion as we continue to work towards property tax relief over the upcoming year and years. It is my intention to withdraw this amendment and to submit this for interim study, but before I do I would welcome any comments that any of my colleagues might have. I want the body to know that this option does exist, that the numbers do work out. There was a...I did include a chart from...that was done up from the Fiscal Office. This represents no tax increase, no shift, no loss of local control. I don't want to take too much time on this amendment, but I did think that this idea is valid enough for presentation. As you all know, I was appointed last fall and had not much time to perfect this idea or submit it for thorough study in the 206 process, but, again, I do plan on withdrawing this amendment and I do not intend for this to take up too much time for debate. I'll put my light on again and, at that time, I'll withdraw this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Robak, followed by Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I support this amendment. If I had been here this morning I would have signed the amendment with Senator Hilgert. We discussed this many times and I think that this is the only rational way to go to get property tax relief. It's not a lame-brain idea. It's one that we should really look at. I wouldn't mind doing this right now instead of all our property tax relief bills that we have out there. We all know that property taxes are assessed, collected and spent locally, and what my county's property tax revenues are different from Senator Hilgert's