

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 4, 1999

LB 770

clear after paying rent and being a tenant farmer or a share cropper for three years in order that some rich, old farmer can get a tax break at the state level. Now we will push that bill, knowing it's not going to achieve its result, and I'm guilty of that. But I can change, and I will change. When we talked about that convention bill yesterday, you all know it's going to raise the taxes on people in Omaha, but that didn't matter to you. Then we come to a bill like this. The only time it can come into effect is if a family has suffered a loss, they have lost somebody. And we have to go through all of this wrangling, all this confused discussion about the federal law, which has no impact whatsoever on the group of people we're trying to help. What they ought to say is draw a picture in your mind, if you can, draw a line across the piece of paper on which you're going to draw the picture and don't put anything else on the picture. Above that line write \$650,000 federal, everything below that line write state. Then draw a line further down on that page and write \$100,000, and next to that put victims of the Legislature. This bill will benefit those in the lower reaches. If those in the upper reaches benefit, we can deal with that by taking a bigger bite out of their apple. They can afford it. But rather than help the small people, the poor people to whom \$900 means something, we will say don't do anything for the small people, because somehow the big people are going to get in on it, too, so we will keep the poor poorer and let the rich fend for themselves by getting the high priced tax lawyers. I'd like to ask Senator Vrtiska a question while my motor is running.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Vrtiska?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Vrtiska, will you give me \$900, please?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, if you ask for it, I'll give it to you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, now is that...you will really give it to me?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, if you want it, yeah.