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disability benefits and then when they hit or reach age 65 they convert to Social Security benefits, then all of a sudden...well, with the way it is now then they would probably be not eligible for the homestead exemption program, because Social Security benefits would then be considered income. And I'm also going to support the amendment that Senator Hilgert is contemplating introducing that would make Social Security benefits exempt from consideration of income for purposes of qualifying for the homestead exemption plan. I want to talk a little bit about the amendment that we just adopted. And in my opinion, basically, what that amendment is going to do is it's going to put some people, some poor disabled people, who happen to be fortunate enough to own a home, it's going to put them out of their house, I believe. I strongly believe that there are people in this state, throughout this state that bought a home years ago at a price that they could afford, became disabled, and then of course they couldn't purchase a house of this kind now because their income has been diminished greatly due to their disability, who can barely afford to hang onto their home because of the taxes that they have to pay. And what we passed in LB 179, last year, would basically allow disabled people to remain in their homes by giving them a break on their taxes. And the amendment that we just passed, Senator Wickersham's, in a sense narrowed that significantly. So I do believe that there are poor disabled people who are going to have to move out of their homes. Where they go, I don't know. But perhaps in the next year or two we'll visit that. Maybe we'll set up some institutions or something that these folks can go to instead of staying in their homes. So again, I rise in support of the Hilgert amendment. And, if he happens to introduce the bill that would exempt Social Security benefits from being considered income for purposes of qualifying for the homestead exemption plan, I will support that as well. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Bourne. For debate on the Hilgert amendment, Senator Wickersham.

**SENATOR WICKERSHAM:** Mr. President, members of the body, this is the revisiting of an issue that has...is the product of an error, a draf...well, you can call this one a drafting error as well, if you want, except this one went the other way. The existing homestead law had a provision in it that said you