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LB 285, 379, 759

dip at another \$35 million from the people who pay income tax. And I understand there are two sides to this argument, and we all come at it from one side or the other, and we can rationalize it. But I've got to tell you where I am, just as you are telling all of us where you are. But it's so easy to think that this is \$35 million that's going to be spread over the people who can afford it. The statistics are sometimes amazing with regard to income tax. In the year 2000, 32 percent of the tax returns showed an adjusted income of more than \$50,000; 32 percent of all the tax returns in the state of Nebraska showed an adjusted income above \$50,000 per annum. And those filers, 32 percent of the whole, paid 80 percent of the income tax. So if we had unlimited time here, we could engage in a bit of a debate if we wanted to deal with the detail of what's fair and what's evenly spread and the like. You might be interested to know that of the 7 percent of the tax returns in the state of Nebraska that showed more than \$100,000 of income, of the 7 percent, we ought to wish we had a lot more people paying, filing tax returns of more than \$100,000 and paying our aggressively progressive income tax...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...rates because that would be good for growing Nebraska and creating jobs for a lot of people. We ought to wish we were there, but we only had 7 percent of our total returns at \$100,000 or more, and those 7 percent paid 46 percent of the total income tax. I'm all for the increase in the income tax that we argued about and established in LB 759. I'm all for the income tax increase we've already put in LB 285, which just advanced on General...from General to Select. The subject is open. It's available to us. I'm not prepared at this time in two successive bills to look only at the income tax before we finish the examination of everything else and the spending issues. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Brashear. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I'll be brief and only add emphasis to some of the things that have