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

March 9, 2005 LB 44

effective, but, at the same time, it is not relied upon as much as the property tax. If we're out of balance, it's in the property tax base, and people complain about it all the time. Don't pick winners or losers. Don't make it geographical. Don't pick it rural versus urban. Just give it to everybody. Build from the base up. Build from the first dollar of property taxes and give it in a relief as a homestead exemption for everybody, not on the basis of status, not on the basis of age, not on the basis of injury, but on the basis of being a taxpayer. We do not have the resources for property tax relief. We have a crying desire for property tax relief. We have an income tax break that does not achieve...or I don't think is the motivation for its existence, which is to move people into the property tax profile, if you will, and this is our chance to do something this year. For those of you who cry about property taxes, and there we are legion... I say we are legion because I do the same...this is your only realistic opportunity to do anything this year about property taxes. When you stand up, speak against the bill, vote against the bill, I understand completely that is the power of inertia. That's the power of, well, it's always been this way, we've never done it that way, which is a powerful voice in politics. People have a break right now and they're clinging to it. They don't want to have it opened up and passed around to somebody else. Understand, this isn't a general tax raise. This isn't an appropriation. This is closing one tax break so you can give another. And the people who are now getting the tax break, of course they don't want to give it up, but the rationale for that tax break,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute,

SENATOR LANDIS: ...which is an income tax break, was already met by the federal government, and it's property tax relief that is the crying need in the state of Nebraska. There is no other way to give property tax relief this year to Nebraskans than this bill, and if you want to do it, you vote for this bill. If you want to protect the income tax as it currently exists, vote against it. That's fine. It's one tax break for another. This isn't...you know, this isn't morally superior versus morally inferior positions. This isn't achieving right versus wrong. This is taking from Peter to give to a couple...well, taking