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

March 9, 2005 LB 44

You know, they say that a Democrat is somebody who very much. steals from the rich to give to the poor, and they're very proud of that, and they say that Republicans are people who steal from the poor to give to the rich. And I will tell you that this is neither fish nor fowl, because this actually does a unique thing--it treats everyone the same. It doesn't matter whether you live in a cottage or you live in a mansion. It doesn't matter whether you have a 15-year loan or a 30-year loan or no It doesn't matter whether it's a million-dollar loan or whether you paid cash for your house. Every single homeowner would get \$8,250 worth of the value of their taxes...property taxes paid under the homestead exemption. So it treats everyone alike. It doesn't play favorites. you're talking about a shift and, yes, when we look at it, \$25,000 to \$30,000 taxable income, only one out of nine people are currently getting the benefit under this system; \$30,000 to \$40,000 taxable bracket, you do see more utilization -- one out of But the truth of the matter is, it's still not the majority of homeowners that are receiving any relief. whether, in fact, if we were to put together our tax policy today, would we create a system that gives the most tax relief to the person who has the million-dollar loan? That's what we have today. The most tax relief goes to the person with the million-dollar loan and, as a Republican, I don't want to own I don't want to say that's the way I form policy in the state of Nebraska.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Because I believe that we should treat all taxpayers alike. I don't want to tax the rich greater. I want them to pay a nickel on their dollar, just like everybody else. And because they make more dollars, they'll pay more nickels. But, at the same time, I don't think that we correct the situation by creating a system that rewards you the bigger the price of your mortgage, and so we encourage people to go out and borrow more, and more, and more, and see a pending doom as the baby boomers retire and face nursing home age and have assets that they still owe debts on. And the taxpayers who are left, the young people, will be the ones who pick up that cost. So I hope you bear the big picture in mind and ask yourself whether