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had clearances, and when I got out of the service I was offered several jobs, CIA and so forth, because of those clearances. I did not accept any of them, but that's different than what we're talking about here today as far as this group in Omaha. And I do believe that is...they are a valuable asset to the community of Omaha and, of course, at Offutt there. But the only thing is, these defense contractors, you know, when they make their bids for these defense contracts, they bid them to the point where they can pay good wages. As far as I'm concerned, instead of us giving tax deductions for these particular people, with these clearances, I think these defense contractors, if they want these people to go to work for them, pay them appropriately. Pay them extra so you can entice them here. I don't think we should entice them through forgiving their income tax. And again, you're picking just a select group. If you're going to do this, go across the board--all military retirees. I am not a military retiree. I'm not drawing any pension so it's nothing to benefit me, but if you're going to do it, do it for all of them. Then I kind of wonder whether we can afford...whether we can afford the price tag. Because, like Senator Smith said, we have other shortages in our state. We have a very dire shortage of science teachers and science professors in our education system, so should we exempt them from paying income tax so that we can entice them to stay here in Nebraska or come to Nebraska? And the answer is probably, no, we won't do that. So I think we are picking a very select group, and once you pick one select group, where is the next one going to come from? There's going to be another shortage over here, a shortage over there. And if you're going to treat this group this way, then you're going to have to treat that...in order to be fair, you have to treat the rest the same way. And I don't think you're ever going to...ever be an end to it. So I oppose this amendment, and I'm not sure I even support the bill because of the...because of the price tag. However, the bill itself, without this amendment, is certainly much more fair. Thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise in support of the bill and the committee amendment