

property tax relief. How did we get what limited property tax relief we did? Vickers forced it on the floor for a big portion of it one year. Schmit did another. Education boys out there did another. It didn't come from us, basically. Each time it was a maverick movement as the pressure built up. It had to be done by forcing it. Remember the famous Vickers \$75 million thing that was then cut to forty or fifty or whatever. The point is we have never done it in an orderly fashion. The committees haven't done it for us. Now, they have said this is a \$6 million cut in the University. It is not a \$6 million cut. Let me put it this way. The old phrase about "You haven't lost a son, you have gained a daughter" when somebody gets married, well, the real base budget of the University last year was about \$140.9 million. This is a \$6 million increase. You haven't lost \$6 million. You have gained \$6 million. Next year is election year. I just talked to Jaksha down in the hall before I came up here. He is serious and a lot of others are, too. I am going to be out there and I have got my three years left here, unless I can go somewhere else, I have got my three years left here and day in and day out I am going to hammer home just what we are doing on property tax. And when you go door to door, for example, Senator Beyer in his District, Senator Lowell Johnson in his District, they are going to know one way or another whether you voted for the highest property taxes in the United States or began to at least take the first step to cut them. I would hope the Lincoln Senators would start to realize that there is a whole big portion of the state out there that needs to be dealt with and they are ready for revolt and I think we all here in Lincoln, us Senators included, have myopic vision. We don't really see the forest for the trees. We don't realize how serious it is because of the attention we get from the University and from the various special interests, not from the people really hurting on property tax. The ones that had the power and were hurting have been taken care of, whether it is business or industry, removal of personal property, and so on and so forth. We have left a limited group out there, that very narrow middle class it is getting to be, who is having to share all this burden. I realize full well, the votes are not here for this this morning but this year I am serious. We are going to start looking at the whole picture rather than just the glamor side of the budget. We are going to deal with this bastard budget that we have ignored year after year or people who are going to run for election are going to have it known in their districts that they gave them the highest property taxes on their home in the whole United States. I urge you to accept the amendment and I would ask for a roll call vote