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would amount to maybe \$140 million that have already been paid. There are statutes on the books that would at least...that would grant the right, it appears, for them to go back, just like the banks did, and say we paid this tax illegally, therefore, we want our money back, just like the banks did to the tune of \$30 or \$40 million. In this case, as I say, it involves about \$140 million. Therefore, what we want to do at this point is one simple thing, insure, through whatever means are reasonably necessary, that that \$140 million that has already been paid cannot be gotten back under some refund claim or theory. That is what the bill does.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator DeCamp. Colleagues, I hope you will listen very carefully. I know Senator Barrett will because he is in the insurance business, the same as I used to be. You've heard me say on the floor before that we have not raised the taxes on insurance companies in Nebraska in about 45 years. Now what DeCamp just explained to you is the reason we haven't. We haven't been able to get the job done because every time you go to the Revenue Committee to raise the taxes the insurance companies come in and they say, well, if you raise the taxes here in Nebraska they are going to be doubled in another state. And, bingo, the bill gets killed. They say Iowa is going to get more money from us than Nebraska. I submit to you, Senators, the reasons John DeCamp gave you for this being done a number of years ago might or might not be true. But I think the real reason it was done was so that the insurance companies could get together and say let's get a lock among the states so that none of them will ever be able to raise the taxes that we are supposed to pay on the premiums. DeCamp's bill, if we bring it in, I think it would be a good idea. He has another bill that for the first time, if we won't be able to do it maybe this year, but next year, they won't have that argument anymore if you raise the tax rate, the tax rate on the insurance companies in Nebraska, Iowa is going to get more, or Missouri, than Nebraska. That is why, for 45 years, they've had a hammer-lock on you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: The money we could make from the insurance companies would probably pay for the whole state's budget for a year if they had had increases that other industries have had every year for the last 45 years. So I would urge