

I'm...I have some problems with the fiscal note also, inasmuch as I am satisfied that there will be a tremendous amount of work required on the local level to bring into the picture those total dollars that, for whatever reason, are exempt. It would be of great value, I'm satisfied of that, but the expense is going to be, as well as time, quite extensive. I...the concept, I think that I can accept without too much reservation, but as many other statutes are placed before us, there are other considerations that we should take into context. I believe, Mr. President, that that is all that I should say, or can say at this point. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon, then Senator Duis and then Senator Warner. Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, one of the things that I do during the interim is hold town meetings, and at those town meetings we select a number of subjects. I have information available on those subjects, a list of pro and con, and a little bit of explanation about the subject, and then I get citizen input on that, and one of the topics that we used this year was the past expenditure issue because Senator Newell was interested in that, and that intrigued me having served on the Revenue Committee, and while the concept is somewhat complicated, I think Senator Keyes has pointed out quite correctly that citizens in the State of Nebraska generally are not aware of all the exemptions that we have made. We asked...we asked the people at the town meetings whether they would like to, in terms of past expenditures, have them remain unchanged, removed, have no opinion, or like to have selective past expenditures. The majority of people favored selective past expenditures. They also felt that this was a subject which had not been discussed in great detail. It was one that was difficult for them to understand, and they felt that additional information would be beneficial. Having had the opportunity to spend two years serving on the Revenue Committee, I can tell you that when the committee votes on issues, and I think certainly as a senator on this floor, we aren't able to see the total package in terms of what this is going to do to the tax base. Just like last year when we adopted the procedure, and I think a very good one, that Senator Warner instigated, where we would have...all the A bills would be held up until such time as we could vote on them in a package, and then take a look and weigh which bill was the best and which ones we felt that we could afford. I think that Senator Newell's bill LB 17 does much the same thing. It provides us the information to make educated decisions in terms of legislation. I think that any additional information which we can receive as senators, to