

April 2, 1980

LB 608

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds left.

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...so it would seem to me that maybe the better part of valor would be to support the 647 concept provided it had a lesser price tag. It does not. This body did not decrease the price tag so given those considerations I certainly think the body ought to go with 608 because 608 in the end, while providing people some increase in the homestead allowance, still does not cost the state as much as 647 in its present form would.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I would like to draw your attention to two things, one is a sample copy that I passed out on your desk. It says that Nebraska homestead renters claim. I have another one here that I did not xerox because I couldn't find it quick enough and that says the Nebraska homestead claim and basically the difference between the Nebraska renters claim and the Nebraska homestead claim is very minimal if there is any difference at all. In fact, there is no difference. Basically this form is one that was worked out in 1976. It is not a form used by the Nebraska Department of Revenue but it is a form that we looked at and talked to then commissioner Bill Peters about and he felt that this form was adequate. It is a one page form. I would like to get everybody's attention. You can see it. It is a one page form. On the back of it shows the income tables. It is a very simple form, doesn't take a lot of time to fill out and basically to make one point that Senator Labeledz did, that verification is like almost all other income tax information. It basically has a little line on the bottom, "I declare under the penalties of perjury that to the best of my knowledge this is a true and correct and complete return." Now I would also like to explain to people that most states in the union have adopted a circuit breaker type approach, those states that have provided relief for the elderly. So the circuit breaker is not a unique concept. It is not an original concept. It is a very tried, true and tested concept and one that really targets relief to those who need it and now I would like to speak just briefly to that section that deals with renters. Senator Johnson said renters have been the forgotten elderly of our times. Renters have never been assisted and never been helped. The cost of helping renters in this state is a total of \$3,700,000 and that cost is the cost that we ought to bear. Unlike 647 which helps those people who are not elderly, 608 helps those elderly who are in need whether they own their own