

property taxes. I think that is a concern many of us have. To have a property tax relief program that, in fact, is of greater benefit to those who are wealthier, to those who have greater wealth and possession is I think an approach completely opposite of what most of us would feel is in the best interests of the state. It reminds me in part of President Reagan's effort to have a 10 percent tax cut which was roundly booed by many individuals although it eventually was enacted, but nevertheless many people across this land saw the fact that that rebate return on tax is going much more to the wealthy than to the average or poor individual in this country and I see this as the same concept. Those that have wealth, those that have high property values are the ones that are going to receive the greatest amount of tax relief. Now you can say, well, that is fair, that is the same percentage return. But I see it completely different. I think those individuals have demonstrated through their ownership of that property that they have the ability to pay taxes, that they have the ability to meet their obligations to our state. But I am a lot more concerned with those people that don't have a great deal of wealth and don't have a great deal of property and the sort of property taxes they are paying really hits them much harder, I believe, and I am particularly concerned about the homeowner in this state. And when I say that, the facts, I think, are clear that the homeowner in Nebraska has been the one property taxpayer that hasn't seen much of the tax relief we talk about a lot on this floor. In fact, it is the homeowner that has been the one person that we have forgotten about in all the discussions and we have had a very minimal homestead exemption program that amounted to \$17 per homeowner, not exactly a very hefty attempt at property tax relief. And we did pass a bill last year to provide a slightly larger homestead exemption in the line of maybe 60 or 70 dollars, but that one is now jeopardized and there is a question of whether that will be funded or not. So other than those initiatives, we really haven't attempted to address their concerns, yet what about other taxpayers and what about their property tax relief that we would like to provide to them? For the farmer we have provided ag land Amendment 4. This has been in the Constitution for a long time. The provisions of that tax advantage have been there for a long time. I opposed it when it was proposed on the amendment. It was adopted by the people of this state and I have not done anything further to oppose its implementation. We have seen from Senator Landis that we are going to see