

19 percent to 20 percent. And his plan, of course, contemplates the restructuring of the homestead exemption for the disabled veterans, the elderly poor and other needy people. And it also contemplates the use of the insurance premium tax money that we were going to put into the Cash Reserve Fund to replace the five million bucks we took last year, but he would put it in General Fund. But, you know, if there are those in this body who want not to have that tax increase and are prepared to go with Governor Kerrey's plan or some modification thereof, they should never vote to advance this bill. It is a \$4 million bill. This bill in and of itself will trigger the tax increase. This bill in and of itself will trigger the tax increase. So for those of you who feel in your own heart that you would like not to have the tax increase, then you better not vote to advance the bill. And for those of you who believe that the tax increase is necessary for other reasons, the reasons not to advance this bill simply have to lie with tax fairness, protection of the tax base, prevention of further erosion, maintaining a reasonable system, a fair and equitable system. Again, Senator Haberman has promised to get us the money. Well, Senator Haberman's track record on getting us the money is incredibly poor because Senator Haberman refused to raise the cigarette tax, refused to extend the sales tax to business utilities, refused to increase the tax rates and, frankly, has voted against virtually every tax increase, tax base expansion bill that has been here in the last eight years. Now, if you want to follow the "trust him" approach, forewarned is forearmed, I would not do it. This bill should not advance.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Vickers, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, just so you understand the position that I am taking on this particular bill, I am going to vote to advance it, although it is contrary to what I think we had ought to do in terms of good tax policy. I agree with the statement made earlier by Senator Warner that if we could start over again with a tax policy, what we had ought to do is to apply the taxes to as many things as possible, have as few exemptions as possible and keep the rates as low as possible. I stated it earlier and want to state it again, as a person involved in the business of agriculture, I consider myself to be a resident of the State of Nebraska and, therefore, am willing to pay the taxes necessary to operate the system of the State of