

SENATOR WARNER: ...doesn't alter the fact that on what is left to be taxed the rate will go up while we busily excuse growing and growing numbers from paying. End of speech of conscience.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Harris, you are next, but before you begin, if I may please, Senator Bill Barrett has a guest under the south balcony, Jack Stuckey from Lexington, if he would please stand and be recognized. We welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. Thank you. Senator Harris, please on LB 1124.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I appreciate the comments of Senator Warner. I know exactly what he is talking about. But I don't see anything wrong with encouraging people to hire folks in the State of Nebraska. I just can't find anything wrong with it. I'm just reading in the evening news about the New Holland plant and the closure out in Lexington. We have the highest unemployment rate that we've had in relation to the national unemployment rate in history. We, for the first time last month, exceeded the national unemployment rate. The first time since the records have been kept. We have a crisis on our hands in regard to employment. We need to do everything that we can to encourage people to locate in Nebraska, and those people that are already here to hire additional folks. I would like to speak to the tax investor cattle that Senator Johnson was referring to a few minutes ago. That has nothing to do with this issue. It is a different tax situation and it has to do with people that are in the cattle business and, unfortunately, most of the time they lose money, historically. Maybe that should be addressed. And it was talked about in relation to Initiative 300, and it still is being talked about in relation to Initiative 300, but it is not the creation of a job to earn a particular credit. I'll close with this one idea, and that is that there isn't a business decision that is made, in particular what this proposes to do, without a consideration of this item. Now if that increases the employment in the State of Nebraska we will not have, as Senator Warner says, fewer people paying the tax. We'll have more people paying the tax. Thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Harris. Senator Vard Johnson, please.