

PRESIDENT: Before the Chair introduces the next speaker, at the request of Senator Goodrich, I'm going to elaborate a little bit on the UN-O student group that is in the north balcony. They are UN-O Student Government Group, United Minority Students Group, Nebraska State Students Group, Student Athletes and Allison Brown who is the UN-O Student Regent and a Mr. Quaites. Welcome again to the Legislature this morning. Senator Higgins, you are next on this motion to advance LB 6E.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. The only reason I'm up to speak a second time, and I'm hoping that the senators will pay attention to this because it might come back to haunt you. Do you remember how many voted for this homestead exemption in 1984? I'm going to tell you, just to refresh your memory. In 1984 we passed this bill, this homestead exemption. Senator Chronister, Senator Nichol, Senator Pappas, Senator Hall, when we passed this bill the Governor vetoed it, so at least 30 senators in 1984 believed enough in property tax relief they overrode the Governor's veto, overrode the Governor's veto. Now think about it. The Governor was saying we can't afford this, but 30 of us politicians said we can, not 25, not the simple majority, but 30 at least. It might have been more. I'll have to check the vote, but 30 of us said, no, we're going to give this property tax relief to the people in spite of what the Governor is trying to tell us. So I am just reminding you. Those of us that ran in 1984, no problem, we don't have to run again till 1988. We can go back on our word very easily but if you 30, at least 30, who voted to override the Governor's veto, God help you when you go back to your district and said, I believed so strongly in it in 1984, even when the Governor said we can't afford it, that I voted for it. But times change and I don't have that conviction anymore, but I'm going to tell you how they have changed. They have changed so much that your constituents are hurting for that property tax relief and they are going to come right back at you say, aha, times changed. I'm a heck of a lot worse off today than I was in 1984. So I just want to remind you, whoever the 30 of you are or more, some of you are going to have to face the gun and you're going to have to stand up and you're going to have to explain to those people who are worse off today than they were then why we're going back on our word. This bill is going to pass, Senator Abboud, but it's not going to fly by without the people