

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I was just won...Senator Hefner, you know?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Chambers, what was the question?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you know what percentage of Nebraska land is agricultural, an approximation?

SENATOR HEFNER: I did hear the figure that the value of land in Nebraska was approximately 30 percent.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Agricultural land?

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, thank you. What I think needs to be brought out and kept clearly in mind is that this, in fact, is as sharp a rural/urban issue as we could face, if we make rural synonymous with agricultural. There are cities and towns in rural areas that are not agricultural, they are cities, they are not as large as Omaha and Lincoln, but they are cities. There are counties that could be considered rural, but they have urban areas within them. So, if the agricultural land is valued at a lower rate than that of other property, of residential property, it could create a hardship for those small towns in rural areas. So I have a question I'd like to put to Senator Johnson, based on what I just said, if he followed, because I know he's trying to work on some other issues connected with this bill. Senator Johnson, is it true that there are towns in rural areas?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes, there are.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So agricultural is not synonymous with rural.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: That's right. I live in a town, as a matter of fact, I don't live on the farm. I actually live in Sutton, I own a home in Sutton.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If rural...If agricultural land were valued, as a matter of fact, at a lower rate than residential property, couldn't it put an undue burden on the people in those small towns whose property would be valued higher than the agricultural land around them?