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FLOOR DEBATE

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of...one of the highest. As far as income tax, I think we're around the 27th; sales tax, not as high; property tax, I think nationwide we're 15th or 16th. I think it is time that we look. How...what are we going to do? I guess when Senator Chambers was talking about subsidies that really did raise my ire in the fact that, yes, we've had a notice published of subsidizes received by farmers. We have a cheap food policy in this country and we have always had a cheap food policy. What we are receiving provides the cheap food that all of us are enjoying in this country, also the quality and the quantity. Most of those subsidies that were published, I don't think people realize, were five years, a average. Many of them were family farms where we...where there were a number of people involved in the operation. So I...I think that we have to consider all of these facts. I will be supporting Senator Coordsen's amendment. I think we have to do something. We can't constantly look and continue this outdated way of...of taxing ag land. Why should we be concerned? I think the average age, right now, of farmers is probably 57-58 years. This is a concern. Yes, I...I think fairness, when I talk about education I have always talked about equity for students, and also equity for taxpayers, and I think it's something that we need to be concerned about. I turn the rest of my time back to the floor. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Landis, on the Coordsen amendment. Senator Landis that will not be necessary being as your light is last. Senator Coordsen, you are recognized to close, if you care to.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I probably have spoken more on this than on all of the issues of the last five years because it is, in fact, that important, and I full well recognize that much of an uphill battle. The system that we have today, which values food production land upon other people's money, is not a good system. About half of the land in Nebraska is owner operated, and about half is owned by investors. Most of the land that those of us in agriculture are familiar with that's been changing hands recently has been, in fact, from people who have been making money someplace else. And the lure to ownership is...is pretty strong. One of the interesting things when we looked at the