

a look at. I think we should think a little bit philosophically about what we are doing with this entire issue and for just a minute I would like to discuss that philosophy, the philosophy being what business has the State of Nebraska got in sending funds to the local subdivisions of government. What is our responsibility? What are we doing and why should we be doing it? It seems to me that if we are going to continue down this path that we should have direction as to where we are going and I, for one at least, am not in a position to get into a revenue sharing sort of arrangement. I think revenue sharing in the federal scene has not proved to be too practical and I am not sure we want to do that on a state scene but I think we should look at where our responsibilities lie and I believe the Constitution is pretty clear as to what subdivisions of government that our responsibilities belong to as far as the political subdivisions are concerned and that responsibility is to education. I don't think it says anything in the Constitution about us being responsible to the counties, the cities, the NRDs or anybody else as far as providing funds to them or assisting them in any way but it does make it pretty clear where our responsibility is as far as education is concerned. Now if there is a problem on the property taxpayer's back and I think there is, I think that is where it lies. From my perspective, when I pay property taxes for those entities of government that benefit property such as the counties and the cities and the various other fire districts and so forth that live off the property taxes, I really think that is my responsibility and I really think that I should have the responsibility of paying those taxes in an effort to also control the budgets of those entities. But I think there is a lot of people in this state, farmers, homeowners, alike, that can not see the correlation between property taxes and the cost of education. So the amendment that I am offering is one that would in the future distribute the funds that we are distributing now but then eliminate that portion of the fund, I think the title, Political Subdivision Property Tax Relief Fund is really a misleading title and gets a lot of people misconstruing what we are doing and so help me, we are going to be dealing with this issue every year as long as we have that fund there until we get to a point in time where we face up to what our real responsibilities are. So, what I am suggesting is that we sunset that provision out over a gradual period of time, wean off those political subdivisions, and instead go to a larger amount of state aid to education sent out primarily on the foundation portion which I don't think anybody can argue with, that the children of this state should be our most precious resource and should share in the funds alike across the State of Nebraska. In this method it seems to me that we could get ourselves out of a bad situation and start down a road that our responsibility should be down that