

take long because I talked awhile ago and I think most of the things have been brought out. But I guess the crux of the whole thing and members of the Appropriations Committee have stated and Senator Dworak especially that by some magic or something counties can handle this better than the states can. The state has the right to raise the sales and income tax if we appropriate the money. It will have to be raised, I'm not saying that I'm supporting it but at the present time at least the counties can not and I repeat, can not, go above 7%. I just don't understand the theory that by some magical wand that the counties can come up with the money when the state says they don't have it. When they have no lid, it is self imposed, but the counties do have a lid. Of course as I mentioned before I certainly believe that this is, as Senator Vickers mentioned, is a state responsibility and it should be funded with something else besides property tax. As far as the money going back to the counties and subdivisions of government from the state it is the money of the people of Nebraska not...and should not be coveted necessarily by the Appropriations Committee of this Legislature. I know that they have a problem. I sympathize with them. If they think they have a problem they ought to try shuffling those funds around at the county level where you have a program that you get a bill each month from the State of Nebraska that says you pay it. When you ask how you can control it they say well we have the controls but you pay the bill. Now, I just can't imagine how that can be fair. So until we can get that changed, I think the best thing we can do is to continue to at least eliminate little by little those payments that are being assessed to the counties again of which they have no control. That is all I want to say at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think that you are all aware of the fact that I have always consistently supported the concept that sales and income tax should pay this cost, but I think it is important to also at this time that we sort of read into the record so we all understand where the principle benefits from LB 39 will rest. So I have asked Senator Kahle for some figures and I would like to ask him to respond if you would please, Butler County for example, the people from Butler County are very much in support of LB 39. I would like to ask Senator Kahle if he could tell us how much money is involved in Butler County at the present time?