

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Carsten amendment and I know that Senator Johnson has had his opportunity to speak against the amendment and I don't rise without some trepidations in terms of this issue. Basically the Carsten amendment will deny my county sizable reduction in property taxes due to a very heavy cost we have in Medicaid. Now I really would rather see, and Cal knows this, I would really rather see his amendment not go on but on the other hand, I think that we're trying to work out here an issue in the most philosophically correct manner we possibly can, an issue that has been before this body many, many, many times, an issue that has been before the courts. The courts have indicated on numerous occasions we can't distribute the money like we have. There is no way to keep the old formula unless you want to put back some personal property and that goes back to the heart of the issue and that is the equity of how we exempted those people in the first place. But the situation here is Senator Carsten is making an honest attempt to try to lessen the impact in terms of the Medicaid money and distribute that formula to the counties in a much more equitable manner. Senator Schmit opposes that. Senator DeCamp opposes it because they cling to this desire to flirt with danger in the distribution of the \$70 million. They want to beat back 816 because it is an election year, because it is the right thing to do back home for home consumption and I can appreciate that. I can not only appreciate that, I can even respect that but the truth of the matter is this is an issue that has haunted us long and will haunt us more if we don't resolve it and in a desire to compromise, I would urge my urban colleagues, especially those from Omaha, to support this proposal because in the end it will make 816 fly more easily and in the end it probably is as fair and as much as we can expect at this time. Lincoln legislators, it is a wash. It won't hurt bad to vote for Senator Carsten's amendment. People like Senator Remmers and some others, I think that frankly this is a reasonable compromise. We don't want to debate this issue long so I support it and I would urge you to support it also.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Newell, I'm surprised at you, saying that we're doing this because it is the right thing to do at home. Senator Newell and all the rest of the Omaha senators, I'd like to have you take a look at this passout that I put on your desks. Now this passout says that agriculture puts 3.6 billion dollars a year into the City of Omaha. It says that every paycheck in Omaha is affected directly or indirectly by agriculture, 3.6 billion. Now in LB 816 in two categories out