

by the individual. When I buy a combine in Columbus the City of Columbus credits that as having come from Columbus but it is paid by a Butler County farmer. There isn't even an International dealership in Butler County anymore so we buy our property, our equipment in either Columbus or we buy it in Fremont or we buy it in some other area. I've handed out, and I don't think you will read it, but I've handed out this Chamber of Commerce report about the agricultural impact upon the City of Omaha, 3.6 billion. I've stood here many times and talked about the interrelationship and the interdependency of one area upon the other. It is very easy today to put together, and anyone can do it, 25 votes when you come to dividing up the pot. There are those kind of allegations of unfair treatment, one entity by another. I do not believe that can be held true if you go back and review history. If the decision is to be made based upon who has the 25 votes, then all you need to do is to put together 25 legislators who receive the bulk of the funds and then you have achieved equity, if that is equity. But I want to point out to some of us who have been here a little longer than others that the decision to exempt personal property was not made by a few people. The issue was carried to the people of the State of Nebraska and they authorized the Legislature to exempt certain classes of property from taxation at the local level and then this Legislature said, we shall return to that subdivision those funds that have been lost. Those early attempts met with frustration because of the so-called frozen class and the idea was adopted by the Attorney General and was pursued by the court which made it difficult if not impossible for this body to reimburse the local subdivisions for the funds lost. Now the reason we tried to do that is because that's also where those taxes are still being collected. The tractors and the livestock and all that is still out there in those areas and when you buy a tractor or a combine you pay that 3½% sales tax on it. It goes into the state treasury and I'm not going to argue about that...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...because it's not going to impact upon you anyway but I just want to say this, that at any time that the pendulum swings too far in one direction it eventually swings back and those of you who come from areas outside of Lincoln and Omaha who today may be able to look at the figures and say, well my community does better under this formula than under the DeCamp formula, remember this, that as time goes by and the balance of power shifts a little bit more toward the metropolitan and primary class cities, maybe your city, your first class city will be excluded from