

Senator. And, as I recall, speaking to an old-time legislator, the reason they sold the school lands was that it was...it had become a source of graft and the politicians were the ones that were renting the school lands and that was why there was an uprising and some of the school lands were sold.

SENATOR ELMER: That fund still exists and the interest is being paid to the schools?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, that is correct, Senator.

SENATOR ELMER: And if the school lands were sold that still are out there for the support of the schools, that money would be added to that principal interest in that permanent fund. Is that correct?

SENATOR SCHMIT: You are correct again, Senator.

SENATOR ELMER: Would the interest on that fund after the course of the sales were made be somewhat similar to the income that is being received to be distributed?

SENATOR SCHMIT: The interest would be substantially greater at the present time, Senator, in my opinion, because the...Mr. Mathis is earning about 12 percent on the other funds that he is investing and we are presently receiving a return of somewhere around 4 percent on the appraised value of the school lands.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you very much. It sounds like to me, ladies and gentlemen of the body, that in the end if this were accomplished that we would have substantially more income for our school districts. And along with the constitutional problem that we have, I feel that it probably is wise if we would raise this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hartnett, with Senator Schellpeper on deck.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I am amazed at how with issues like this with the constitutional amendment and so forth that people, this is it, people kind of ignore it, people from greater Nebraska ignore the chief lawmaker of the state, the person that's supposed to set the...what the constitutional...Constitution says and they're