

April 17, 1989

LB 361  
LR 2

committee, because of the same reason that was mentioned on this floor. Who runs this show? Does this committee, or Schmit? Well, the bill got to the floor and the same members, the same rural members who sent the bill to the floor got up on this floor and said, I plead with you, don't pass the bill; I beg you, it's not fair to agriculture. I went to those senators and I said, listen, senator, you turned the skunk loose in the chicken house and you can't win. If you catch it, you lose; if you don't catch it, you lose. That's exactly what you're doing here, ladies and gentlemen, unless you define the parameters, unless you put the rules out there. You have said, and remember, Nebraska today is no longer... We've been told by our university, some of our university people and other people, Nebraska is not an agricultural state anymore, it's no longer important. I still believe it is. But we are no longer in a dominant position, we're not dominant on this Legislature and we certainly are not dominant with the voters. To the extent that we want equity, we can ask for equity. To the extent that we want favoritism, we cannot ask for favoritism. I regret that someone said the gravy train for agriculture is over. I suggest that maybe someone ought to talk about the gravy train of the \$200 billion plus which goes to homeowners because of the bail out of the S & L's. I might add most of it is not going to low income homeowners either, it's going to the large income homeowners. But the point I want to make is this, we don't need to drag other issues into this. Vote against the amendment, if you will, but let the record show that when the time comes that in some taxing district some county assessor and some county treasurer and the Tax Commissioner of this state say we think, as Senator Chambers has pointed out to you, he warned you, he will bring the bill to this floor, and there aren't a handful of you here who can out debate him, most of you will scatter for the doors like chickens in a hail storm rather than to take Senator Chambers on on this issue, or most others, and he'll whip you, he will whip you. And we, as farmers, will pay at the basis of 150 percent, and Senator Chambers will smile all the way to the bank. Let me tell you, he'll have some support and some... You know I'm not so sure I can't tell about Senator Hall, but I would guess Senator Hall would be right there, pushing the wheelbarrow along and taking the money back to the bank. LB 361, the press said, will raise the taxes on agricultural land by \$50 million. Don't like it, they said, don't like it, but we have to do it. We don't have to, ladies and gentlemen. The paragraph in the Farm Bureau Newsletter, ahead of the one I quoted before, said state senators should not