

the future. I think it's a viable pro...it is a viable bill, and one that we should certainly explore. I support it.

PRESIDENT: Very good, thank you. Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I think I'd like to dwell just a little bit upon what Senator Weihing has mentioned. We ought to discuss the issue. It ought not be off limits, it ought not be something which is too sacred, too highly moral and too highly ethical to even address. We, today, find ourselves constantly trying to find sources of revenue that are of a consistent, and substantial and continual nature in order to support our school systems. We have debated, for many hours, LB 89 on this floor. We have debated a number of other bills designed to help support the schools. It seems to me, and I think that Senator Lamb put it very honestly when he stated the lands in the eastern part of the state have been sold substantially. The land in the western part of the state have been retained. And, if you look at it in a very uncluttered way, it's almost as if I put \$10,000 in the bank and Senator Lamb put \$10,000 in the bank and we agreed we're going to live off the income. And all of a sudden I have the opportunity to draw my \$10,000 out, and I took it. And then I said to Senator Lamb, well, Senator Lamb, you and I agreed that we would live off the income of that bank account. And Senator Lamb says, that's right, but at one time you had some money in the bank also. You have now taken your money out of the bank, and so you enjoy the benefits of operating of your own capital, and now you want me to divide my capital with you. And I said, that's right, isn't that fair? And he says, well, I don't really think so, but let me look at it a little while. And that is essentially where we are at. When the Legislature, in 1974, provided the in lieu of tax payments it was an attempt to sort of rectify, to a certain extent, the situation which was very inequitable from the standpoint of the rural western part of the State of Nebraska, because it recognized, it recognized very effectively that those of us in the eastern part of the state who had sold our lands, we had the benefits of the lands on the tax rolls, we had the private investment that came in and took over, we had all those opportunities and then we still had that wonderful resource of school lands in the western part of the state. Now much is made of the fact that the school lands that were sold, the best land sold in the early...late nineteen hundreds and early...late eighteen nineties and early nineteen