

And I see this amendment that Senator Lamb is bringing as merely a continuation of tax inequities between school districts, a continuation. I'm a co-sponsor of this bill and I will talk more about the bill at a later time, but I don't believe we should adopt the Lamb amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, it's good that we have this discussion. I just want to warn my friends from the rural areas, we all know why reorganization is such a desirable goal for schools. It is because of the added valuation that goes into those school districts and the minimal amount of educational responsibility that goes along with it. Senator Landis says that it is very unlikely that the urban areas will want to continue to pour tax dollars into rural areas. Well, Senator Landis, I appreciate your generosity. I appreciate your sincerity, but I would challenge even the smaller farmers on this floor here today to contrast their tax burden per individual taxpayer with that of the wealthiest member on this floor who is not a farmer. We all know what the difference is. I know farmer, after farmer, after farmer in my district today who did not pay any income tax last year, will probably not pay any next year, who had to pay thousands of dollars of rural property taxes towards the support of schools, not hundreds, as you indicate here, that's a pimple on the nose of a bull, thousands, ladies and gentlemen, thousands. We are fast approaching a position where rural Nebraska will find taxes confiscatory and will find farmers losing their land because of these inequities. We have a tendency to talk in terms of hold harmless for this year. I believe this body would vote itself out of existence if we had a delayed enactment date on the bill of four or five years. Anything you can do down the road far enough, go ahead and vote for it. If you want to have a one-year hold harmless, two years, three years, fine, the facts are these; that we know on this floor that the passage of 1059 totally ignores real wealth. It ignores liquid wealth. It ignores the wealth in the CDs and the stocks and the bonds that reside principally in our urban districts and it counts as the wealth those farms out there in the rural areas. My farms, the land I have is all or are all included in Class II and III districts. I don't even like to think of how many dollars I have paid to support those schools as opposed to what I would have done had I remained in a Class I school district. The rural people have, for years, not resisted the consolidation of