

am concerned about what happens today when I go back home every night and I stop in Dwight or Valparaiso or someplace else. I get all sorts of advice relative to how to run the job down here. Most of it has to do with property taxes, most of it has to do with property taxes. Senator Moore just said we probably need a 9 percent sales tax if we're to rely upon sales and income tax to support schools. You know what, I'd prefer that, I really would, and we as farmers spend a substantial amount of money wound through the sales tax system. One of the things I like about what Senator Hefner has done, he says, wait a minute, maybe there ought to be some kind of restraint. We haven't talked about that much, have we? We talked about the needs. We talk about what has to be done to provide quality education. Ladies and gentlemen, I think I know a little bit about education. I've watched a lot of my children go through the system, through a variety of systems and I am critical of the education they did receive. Some received a better education than others. I doubt today, I doubt today if my grandchildren are receiving as good an education as my children received. We are spending a lot more money, we're providing more opportunities, broader curriculum, but I'm not so sure the basic education is as good as it was 20 years ago. Now I know there are going to be those who are going to criticize me for that. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm not the authority on that. You know where to go to get the numbers on that, but I will say this. I will say that I do not believe that we're headed in the right direction insofar as the system is concerned, but someone, somewhere, whether it is through Senator Hefner's mechanism or someone else, I believe we've got to exercise some sort of restraint. A business can go broke. A farmer can go broke. A professional person can go broke...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...but governments don't go broke, we just add on the burden and collect more money. Those of us on this floor who point with pride to our Republican heritage are going to be having our feet held to the fire when some Democrat candidate for Governor starts reading the numbers back to us next summer, and it is going to be a little embarrassing. I believe it was every year that we were here under Governor Kerrey, we came back in when we ran out of money and cut state spending. We had increased state spending, I think, roughly 50 percent in the last several years, a substantial amount. Well, we met some needs, that's right, but, ladies and gentlemen, I don't think