

that's not really true. I think this has been more than piecemeal. This legislation is a result of a year and a half long study and the study was done with a cross-section of Nebraskans who I think entered this study with a great deal of validity and I was satisfied with the way the study was done. I think that we all should be. The effort was made by people from all segments of education and from all segments of industry in Nebraska. There was a ranch wife, for instance, from Valentine involved. I think that...I think the study was well conceived and was done well and I certainly support this whole concept and I think that it's well for us all to do that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I appreciate the attempt by Senator Schellpeper to write into the statute some attempt to guarantee that there will be property tax relief. It was stated on the floor here this morning that those of us who understand funding, I forge the rest of what was said, I can tell you who understands funding, ladies and gentlemen, the gentleman and the lady who walks up to the County Treasurer's office and pays the taxes on a major piece of property understands funding. I would like to know, as long as this bill is supposed to provide equity, where do you find equity on a farm that pays 15,000 in school taxes as opposed to a home which pays 1,500 or a 1,000? Admittedly, some farms pay a 1,000, not very many of them because there isn't any way that a farm which has only that amount of tax base could possibly support the owner. As of today, there isn't any way that there is equity so long as there are a preponderance of individuals who own a small portion of property...a large portion of property who support an inordinate percentage of the school load. I have said it before, I'm going to say it once again on this floor, in my own school district 52 percent of the property valuation is rural, 37 percent is urban and 13 percent is other valuation. Approximately 300 of the students are urban. Approximately 66, I believe, are rural. It is evident that the rural valuation carries a load of education, so you reduce my cost by 10 percent. I don't need to save a 1,000 or \$1,500 on my tax bill. I need to save 7,500 or 8,000. There are people who are going to lose their farms, ladies and gentlemen, because under this proposal, notwithstanding the very best efforts, notwithstanding the many attempts that have been made, there are people who are going to find that within three years their