

situation developed where I had developed a position which was in opposition to the majority members of that Ethanol Authority and so all of a sudden I became portrayed as the bad guy and ever one of you at one time or another has been informed that Schmit is a senile old man and is...a poor loser and because the Ethanol Authority wouldn't give him the money to buy the plant at Hastings, that he's mad and wants to put us out of business and after all, we know what is best, we've been working here for six months or so and we can tell you what you ought to do with that ethanol money. Now I'll tell you what. There are, no doubt, some very fine people there. They've been back to Washington, had dinner in the White House several times in the last six months. I've been at this for 30 years. The best I ever got was a bowl of bean soup in the Senate dining room, but anyway the point is this. They have \$18 million which they can use to lobby each of you and to lobby the farm organizations and to lobby the farmers and say, hell, Schmit has gone off his rocker, he doesn't know what he is doing and you can't do anything about it because I have never taken a dime out of that fund. I have spent my own money and my own time on it. We have some of the same problems with the various other subdivisions of government and so I'm inclined to say we do not want to use property tax money in this way. Then I'd turn right around and I look at the money that Omaha and Lincoln receive, about \$8.5 million for...from the federal government, the CDBG Funds as opposed to 9.7 million for all the rest of the state and I look at the economic power that is controlled by Lincoln and Omaha for expenditure of state government funds and I look at how difficult it is for any entity outside of Lincoln or Omaha to obtain any expenditure of public funds because it's natural, it's natural that government resides in these two metropolitan and primary class cities. On the other hand, what are the smaller communities going to do? What about the Columbus and the Norfolks and the Grand Islands and the Bellwoods and the Brunos and the Wahoos? How do they compete? I really don't know how you compete, I really do not know. I know that when the dust settles, ladies and gentlemen, on the property tax issue after the end of this session we're going to have to wind up with a net increase in property taxes, notwithstanding the best efforts of a lot of hard working legislators here to provide some kind of property tax relief. The question then arises, which was raised by Senator Landis and others, how far do you want to diminish that base? And I don't know, I do not know. What about the competing forces between communities? Do we compete, in fact, with each other for these new opportunities