

income tax rates remain flat over a period of time. They remain flat in their contribution levels while other standards, as we all know, are regularly going up. This is an underutilized method of taxation. Take a look by comparison to another income tax base. It is the last page in this or next to the last page. Compare it to what has happened to personal income. If you take a look at the area in the part of the top, you will see that in this structure from '73 to '83, and by the way, revenue figures are tough to come up with and they are slow coming about, Nebraska taxpayers had a 117 percent increase in income. They had a 225 percent increase in income taxes. In other words, their taxes went up faster than their income did on that base. Is that true for corporations? No, it is not true. The most underutilized tax base that we have is the corporate income tax base. It is set lower than others. The effective tax rate in this state is about 4.75 and 6.65, depending upon which kind of a corporation you have, but take a look at the Syracuse Tax Study's conclusions about what that means. Here is the concluding section, and by the way, Brad Ashford has a whole summary section that you could go through and take a look, but here is the critical summary sentence in an analysis of our corporate income tax. In summary, the Nebraska corporate income tax has a relatively low tax burden when compared to personal income, that is everybody else's income. Our corporations are taxed lower and less burdensomely than you and I and everyone of the rest of the people of this state. It is not only low in the tax burden to everybody else in this state who pays income tax, it exhibits a low effective tax rate when tax shifting is taken into account and has a low or average marginal tax rate depending on the comparisons they used, and as a whole, looking at the country as a whole, it is low. You can take an individual state and we might be somewhat comparable.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: As a matter of fact, our tax collections for corporate tax are 44th lowest in the country, 44th lowest in the country according to the Syracuse Tax Study. True for property tax? Not at all. Was that true for your personal income tax? Not at all. The least utilized tax base available to us is the corporate income tax. I have been here 11 years. We have had one and only one stand alone corporate tax increase. It was by a Republican Governor when he had over 30 members of his party and he got less than half of what he asked for when the lobby got done bludgeoning him down to a number that they would