

on and then just work to find a solution, but use this amendment as part of that solution. So I oppose the reconsideration. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Smith, you are next.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I stand to strongly support the reconsideration motion being offered by Senator Withem and Senator Chambers. I was one of the people that was absent from the Chamber when that was voted on yesterday because the Government Committee was meeting dealing with reapportionment issues. I sat and listened, though, when I was on the floor yesterday until I left a little after three o'clock yesterday afternoon, and I heard the arguments that went on all day long about this issue, and more and more, I was hearing arguments that were divisive. Talking about the rural versus the urban, and I don't think we should start doing that. I don't think we should be pounding on the farmers, the poor farmers, versus those businesses and those city dwellers that have everything. We are going down a road, if we do that, Senator Schellpeper, to certain inability to solve this problem as a group, if we continue that tack. I want to ask a couple of questions to all the members of this body. First of all, I want you to ask yourself, how did we get in this position in the first place? Everyone of us in here know how we got in this position, because we allowed exemptions. Who received the exemptions? I am not going to answer that but I will bet you all know who received the exemptions. Now what I am going to ask you is, are you saying that those people that received the exemptions should not have to help solve the problem right now? What are you saying? You are saying by this amendment that those, again, that can least afford it, who have been asked over and over in the last years to bear the burden of the cost of government for services and programs and exemptions for other groups, you are asking those who are wage earners, those people that many of us in here represent, and we forget about that, who come home with a paycheck at the end of the week, and we all know what the average income of most Nebraskans is here in this state, they pull their check out, they give the money to the family and they don't have any exemptions. The government, state, federal, have decided for them what is going to come out of that paycheck before they ever got home. And when they figure their income at the end of the year, they don't have any ways for making deductions before they are taxed again.