

forward. I just wanted to make a point. Some comments were made here again today about adding the personal property tax back on. And I am going to say once again that I consider that synonymous with the surcharge on the depreciation schedule in many, many ways. But I had this brought to my attention by someone not in my district about the amount of tax that will be paid on this surcharge as it presently is with the 2 percent. And in this case, this does include agriculture in this case. If you bought a \$50,000 tractor, which is a rather modest price for a tractor today, 10 years depreciation, if I understand the way the bill is you will pay...the first year you would have on the \$50,000 tractor, 10 percent, you would have \$5,000 depreciation. That is \$875 or 87.50, excuse me. And so on down the line every year you're going to pay under a \$100 and then it gets less and less, the point being that over the 10-year period you will pay about \$500 tax on that plus the sales tax that is still in position on this, which in this case would be another 5 percent on \$50,000, it would be \$250...or \$2,500. So we are paying quite a significant share for the tools of production. My only point is that those that say that it's fair to have...we ought to be paying on the depreciation schedule or on the personal property says that we should be taxing tools production. I don't know the history of personal property in Nebraska but I would assume that a 100 years ago there wasn't much left...wasn't much to tax besides real estate and personal property and I would guess that that's where it started. Today we make our money from other areas far removed from the rural economy that we had in those days. But we're still taxing the tools of production, whether it's in business or in agriculture, quite extensively and in most cases in the case of business you have a way to pass that on in the cost of the finished product. But here once again in agriculture there is no way to pass it on so, in essence, it becomes a dead end tax on a...on the agriculture producer because there is absolutely no way to pass it on. I can't seem to get that point across and the reason I say that is when we talk about the sales tax everybody says sales tax is regressive, it's unfair, therefore, we shouldn't do it. And I cannot distinguish the difference between that, in my opinion, than I can that's saying the surcharge on depreciation schedule because, to me, that is regressive too, you pay it whether you make it or not and there is no...absolutely no way to pass that on. And I, try as I might, I can't seem to get others to understand that and I would be open to someone coming to me and explaining to me how a surcharge on depreciation schedule or my words, a surcharge on personal property, the tax