

point of view of trying to, in certain areas, broaden the base as much as possible and look at the types of taxes that generate the most amount of income. I think, frankly, that's the only reason you have a tax. You don't tax because you like to, you don't tax because it's something that you need to do to make friends across the board. You do it because you have to raise revenue and, frankly, those revenue sources are falling off farther and farther in a state like Nebraska. They continue to pick the same pocket over and over again and our fights tend to center around whose pocket gets picked instead of how to, I guess, equitably pick everybody's pocket. That's really what the amendment here says, yeah, it takes away the property tax which probably is never going to happen because of the kinds of reasons that Senator Moore just laid out. But these are the kinds of discussions I think we ought to continue to have when we talk about the tax code because, hopefully, we're going to look at drastic changes like this, probably not this specific type of a change but I think that this is where the Legislature needs to be next year in terms of looking at the overall tax code. It shouldn't just be how can we raise this \$20 million to fill this void? Unfortunately, that's where we're at this year on the personal property tax issue. I don't argue that personal property tax probably isn't a very viable tax in terms of what sense does it make? If it was a good tax, we wouldn't have exempted 75 percent of it. We wouldn't be in the mess that we're in right now, but we're there and we have to deal with that. What the Rogers-Schmit amendment does though is say that you can't lose sight of what those little changes do to your overall tax system. Every time you make...fill one of those \$20 million holes, it has a ripple effect across the board to every other tax portion of your system throughout the code. You don't do one change without affecting every other tax portion of your code. That's just the way it works. I can't raise sales tax without affecting property tax; can't affect...raise property taxes without affecting income tax. It's going to have that kind of impact. You don't see it directly but it's there and those are the kinds of things we need to continue to look at. It's much of what I hope...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...takes place over the interim. I clearly hope that the debate next year in the session centers around these kinds of proposals that look at wholesale changes in the tax code, should they be necessary. Should we decide that there are