

February 26, 1992 LB 1063

in assessing a level of fairness to 1063. In my area of the State of Nebraska, and I just picked out several different counties, one county on all of the support of the property tax support of local government with the exception of city and village levies, the owners of agricultural property pay 82 percent of that support, and they do it with 22 percent of the income, 22 percent of the income in 1989. Our most metropolitan county, the taxes outside of the city taxes, agriculture provide or the owners of agriculture property provide 1.4 percent of the support and they do that with .16 of the available income in that metropolitan county. What happens when a system like 1063 comes into place is that in all of these counties, from the most populous to the least populous, it results in a shift of the tax burden from the ability to pay to the ownership of property. It sends a message to entrepreneurs in Nebraska that if you wish to invest in the future of Nebraska by buying a punch press, a commercial freezer, whatever it is that is going to allow you to expand and hire more people, that we're going to say, thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: And, by the way, you're going to receive the honor of paying personal property tax on that for as long as it's in use in your business or until it's depreciated out. Folks, I know at some point in time we will have to find some fair, reasonable middle ground. I believe that it is an essential burden on this Legislature to follow the paths of those that have went before and to try to craft a system that is fair based upon the ability to pay those taxes. And an investment in business equipment, an investment in farm equipment does not necessarily carry with it the ability to pay...

SENATOR CONWAY: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...the property taxes on those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Withem, you're next.

SENATOR WITHEM: I will call the question.

SENATOR CONWAY: The motion is to call the question. Do I see