

they buy that microwave for the coffee room, that now becomes exempt, whereas at home, the microwave that I have to buy to put in my kitchen, I pay sales tax on it. They are going to say that is blatantly unfair. Those are the kinds of problems you keep building into the system, and 1120 was introduced to take a step back from that trend that we have been on. It is more than a slippery slope, it is greased to continue to grant exemptions, and I am as guilty as anybody when we look at the exemption problem, but if we don't take a position now, and this is...the personal property tax situation allows us the greatest opportunity the state has ever had to turn the system around. We need to remove this provision from the Ashford amendment. I believe that the provisions in the balance in the amendment that deals with some kind of combination of LB 1063, and removal of exemptions, probably is a fairly reasonable solution to the problem, if it is examined on its face and looked at. That is something that could very well sell, I believe, at the polls, because then everybody is pulling a little bit of their weight. Under the other provisions, what you are doing is I believe with this portion of the amendment, you are saying that we are going to grant yet another exemption to business, whether it be agribusiness or business on main street. And many of those, frankly, in the smaller communities tend to be agribusinesses. They are important to protect. We protected them in other ways. What we have to do is protect our base. This portion of the amendment does not do that. Yesterday in front of the Revenue Committee, as an amendment to a bill that I introduced that dealt with reducing property taxes 20 percent and making major shifts...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...in the tax system, there was an amendment offered by a group of people who put together what's called a transaction tax, and it is an interesting concept. It is one that I am going to pursue a little bit. Wipes out property taxes, wipes out income tax, and wipes out state sales tax, and replaces it with what is called a transaction tax at every level of operation. Unique proposal if it works, if it raises the kind of money that it says it does, if we can solidify the numbers. It is the kind of thing that could catch fire in, I guess, a state like Nebraska. As one person put it, we have a Unicameral, why can't we be a little different in our taxing approach as it relates to the state funding of different types of operations? I think it is something worth looking at. That