

with is a little like deciding whether to get your wisdom teeth out today or next week. It's not a...it's not a happy time. It's not like talking about whose problem we're going to solve with spending measures or new initiatives, like some of the things that maybe we'll talk about in the budget. This is not fun to do. But I...and I certainly don't, as an urban senator, consider this compromise anywhere near a victory. I think I'm going to have to do a lot of explaining and trying to explain to businesses in my district that they are going to have to pay a sales tax and a property tax on the same equipment, whereas purchasers of large equipment in the rural areas are not going to have to pay that tax. And I say that with the full understanding of the arguments on the other side and an appreciation for those arguments. It is...we are one state and we have a common goal to bring all of our Nebraskans up economically and to do the best we can for all of us. But I do think that it is probably a mistake...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...to suggest that those of us, like myself, for example, who would vote for this compromise are doing so with a great deal of haughtiness and running around waving flags and feeling as if we have been victorious because I don't particularly see that. I see that as simply putting together a tax bill that is a valiant effort to do the right thing. I commend everyone who has spoken on this issue and hope we can get on with it and go forward with the other matters that we have to deal with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Moore, you are next.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Senator Ashford, in response to your question about going home explaining it to people, you know they have been paying both of these taxes for the last 20 years. So you will have to explain why it was fair but they have always did it till last year anyway. As far as...I have historically never voted for Senator Haberman's bills to exempt farm machinery from sales tax. I have always went home and got beat up for doing that, and I have always argued that as long as you have a property tax exemption, there is a reason you shouldn't be granted the sales tax exemption as well. That was the argument 20 years ago. That was the argument for me in '87, '88, '89, '90, when I always voted no on those and certainly in