

in here and make the laughable, very laughable statement that we think personal property should be on because that's a business tax and, by golly, we think business should pay for it. You know when I heard it, I could hardly keep from laughing. You know, thank you, boys, thanks for absorbing that tax and not passing it on to your customers. There is one business and only one in this state that can't pass on the increases that happen to them and that is the farmer, no ability whatsoever and that...I guess I'm feeling that people don't understand that or think it's some sort of joke or some sort of line we use. It's true. The people, as ironic as it may seem, the people that produce the most important product in this country have absolutely no say on the prices and they never will have a say unless they get a little organized. So that's why there have been exemptions given to them. Now, I'll agree that that has caused problems within the constitutional framework but that doesn't mean that exemption wasn't given for a good reason and thus, again, we should not start our argument from the basis that we need to tax the people that have benefitted in the past from the exemptions and will benefit the most from everything going back on. That is starting the entire race off of the wrong foot.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: A fair system is what we need to talk about and that's it pure and simple. When I was in Falls City for two days over this last weekend, we discussed taxes with everybody, rural and urban, "ural" and "rurban", however you want to say it. But the thing we always digress to with the farmers is, who is going to be farming in the next few years? Who can afford to start farming anymore? And even if you have a parent in the business, we don't know who is going to be farming. We have absolutely no idea. So maybe we were the benefactors of all these great tax breaks in the past, but did we get rich over the whole deal? No, guaranteed not. Come down to my district and get to know the farmers. Don't just listen to these broad statements and generalizations, don't listen to that. Come down and get to know some of them. They're not getting rich. There's only one group of people in this state getting rich off of ag and that's the people that support LB 1063, the businesses in Omaha that support 1063.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.