

forward, because I think it says that the State of Nebraska has to start looking at the tax system that we have as a whole. We've got a land mass big enough for two and a half Pennsylvania's, we've got a population that isn't the size of about 25...

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...cities in this country, and yet only 700,000 of those 1.6 million people pay taxes, the other 900,000 are either too young or too old, too poor, or they're exempt. And we continue to pick those same pockets. That's not a problem, we'll do that under any tax system. But what we have to do is pick those pockets in a more equitable fashion. The proposal that Senator Elmer puts before us moves in that direction.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. Chairman and members, I deliberately did not turn my light on for some time, thinking that there would be many individuals on this floor, having heard the debate of the past several days, who would have a lot to say about this tax. Actually, Senator Owen Elmer is trying to attach a jet airplane to a horse and buggy bill. The horse and buggy bill is going back to the old system. And, of course, Senator Warner, being a very traditional kind of person, it is entirely fitting and proper that he would have that kind of bill. Not exactly consistent, but fitting and proper. I would suggest Senator Owen will get some support, and very few votes because we are all resistant to change. And we have all seen that when new proposals come before this body and are adopted by the body that the result is usually something different than what we had anticipated. Senator Owen Elmer's bill is a bill which reverts a long way from the traditional. And I do not know if it will tap any of those other taxpayers that are not now paying taxes. The concern that was expressed by Senator Hall relative to the method of funding education is one which, of course, we have struggled with a long time. Senator Withem and others tried to address that under 1059, and then, of course, we did not fully fund 1059. As I indicated yesterday, although I have frequently disagreed with the bills that were passed into law that addressed taxation in this body, I, nonetheless, am resistant and reluctant to amend those bills and make major changes. And