

chance to speak again.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker and members. Oppose LB 1063. And again I'm going to talk some realities, some facts. The fact is rural Nebraska is struggling to get by. We want our kids to be able to stay down there and live there. We don't want them to have to move to Lincoln and Omaha and the golden triangle to live. We want them to have the option to live in Tecumseh, or move as they so choose. For us to survive we are dependent upon the farmers, the small farmers. For the small farmers to survive in their business of low, low profit, I don't think we can let them take any more hits. That's why I oppose not only 1063, but the philosophy behind 1063 that we have to make the people, that have benefitted in the past from these exemptions, pay. Now, I'm not going to argue that these exemptions can't stand up to the uniformity clause, because they can't. But I feel that is the only thing the Supreme Court is saying. Unless the Supreme Court is, indeed, ruling the Constitution unconstitutional. And I don't think they're doing that. I don't think they're doing that. They allow for exemptions, specific exemptions in many other areas. Livestock may be taxed separately and distinctly, may provide for different methods for autos and trucks, that's in the Constitution. They're not going to declare the Constitution unconstitutional. The problem we had was solely within business equipment, a tractor is a tractor is a tractor. A John Deere tractor on the farm can't not be taxed while a John Deere tractor in a lumberyard can be taxed. That is the only problem, the only problem with that system. So, for us to come out and take the dramatic step of repealing the uniformity clause and try and cobble up some sort of tax system that will hit the farmers is something I don't think I can accept. I am dead serious when I say that farmers have a very slim profit margin. And I'm dead serious when I say that I want the small towns in my district to survive, and even possibly, dare I say it, thrive. And I'm dead serious when I say I don't want to live in Lincoln and Omaha, and I don't want that to be the only choice my children have. And the uniformity clause is there for one reason, and that's to protect the little guy. And that might be the last thing that little person, excuse me, the little person has, the small operator, whatever they may be. So, for me to repeal it is a big step. And I don't know that I can do that anymore. The other... I've been telling my constituents I think,