

of millions of dollars. And I will just guarantee you one thing. I do not care what kind of proposal you formulate to try to collect personal property taxes, the least experienced person out there in the tax paying area in order to survive will find some way around it. That's the nature of the taxpayer and the taxpayer must become innovative because we are so darn creative in trying to tax that individual out of his last dime. We talk about the concern for the local property tax base. Look at the increase in the local property taxes collected for the last five years and you will not need to shed any more tears about the protection of the local property tax base. Look at the increase in the collection of revenue at the state level, and we ought to be ashamed of ourselves. We did our best to try to bring down the taxes on property through the enactment of 1059, and I commend those of you who supported the bill because you really tried very diligently to do it. Facts are it didn't work. It won't work. Senator Crosby was concerned about the actual value on a house and she has an excellent point. She has an excellent point because she knows, as we all know, that the individual taxpayer whose home is valued at \$45,000 is probably valued a little bit over the sale price of the house, but Senator Crosby knows, and we all know, that the 200,000 dollar house, the 400,000 dollar house is undervalued and undervalued substantially. So the 10,000 dollar exemption is not what it ought to be to all people, but that's not Senator Hall's fault. There's not really anything he can do about the fact that the local county assessor in this county and Douglas County and virtually every other county doesn't have the intestinal fortitude to put the 300,000, the 500,000...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ..dollar house where it belongs. You know why? Because he would get a phone call from the owner of that house and there would be dire consequences if they put those valuations where they belong. If you want to check it out, take the transfers from the Sunday paper and call down to the courthouse and find out what those houses are actually valued at. That is, to me, the largest travesty that has taken place in the state because the average working person in Nebraska, be they rural or urban, pays virtually full taxes on his or her house, whereas the more valuable houses pay very little more, based upon the extreme valuation. The advantage of this amendment also is this. According to Bill Peters and John Boehm, two tax commissioners from differing political beliefs,