

Senator Schmit for closing.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam President and members, appreciate the debate we've had on this amendment, and I appreciate the debate and discussion we have had on LB 1063, the amendment. That's the most debate we have had on the bill since we started. It's unfortunate that a large number of individuals are not here any longer to participate in this process. It's sort of unusual that we proceed in this manner. But, ladies and gentlemen, I think it's important that we understand that those of us in agriculture are not just fighting for an idea, we're fighting for our life. Furthermore, once the agricultural engine stops to function, the rest of that system falls apart. It's kind of ironic that I have been considered by some to be an opponent of education because I voted against LB 1059. LB 1059 has its shortcomings, which we've talked about at some length. And we understand that there may need to be some fixing done. But it's also kind of interesting, I'm the only person on this floor who gave education their most important vote they ever received, that was the vote to allow them to organize on LB 15 in 1969. Without that they'd still be negotiating one-by-one and a whole lot of other things. So, what appears to be, to one individual, as something, may be really something else. Appreciate Senator Robak's remarks. I think it's...I think we ought to understand that to some people this is a game, it's a game. We're going to show up certain individuals, we're going to show up a certain entity, we're going to prove to certain people we've got the votes to ride roughshod and do what we damn well please. Well, maybe they can do that. Maybe you've got the votes. As I said earlier, I've lost on this floor many times. I have never felt bad about losing so long as I lost in a fair and open debate. I would be embarrassed, ladies and gentlemen, to win if I had to win by some other process. And I won a few. There's no danger in losing, no harm in losing, no disgrace in losing. The disgrace is in not putting up a good fight, a good effort. And I'm serious that what we do here today will chart the path of the tax program in Nebraska for many years. And there are a few people who have determined that it's going to go down one course, and all other avenues and points of discussion be discarded. I disagree with that proposal. I've made it clear from the outset that agriculture, from my point of view, is willing to pay their share. I'm not talking about agriculture versus industry, rural versus urban, I'm talking about a tax plan. And this Legislature is scuttling a well drafted tax plan for one which is not well drafted.