

distribution need of money raised statewide going back to the locals, that fight would be one that would be...will be or would be ongoing too. So, as I look at some of this, I want to just emphasize one of the positive aspects of LB 1063 in this distribution.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Warner. Does anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, I will recognize Senator Schmit for closing.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam Chairman, members of the body, Senator Wehrbein talks about the good parts of this bill, one of them being that this leaves the money at the local level for local control. Well, take a look at the spending of local governments, will you. Take a look at the increase in the amount of money we have shipped out to local governments in the last 25 years in an attempt to assist them. Take a look at the billions and billions of dollars that have gone back to local governments in an attempt to hold down property taxes. The taxes on my land went from a dollar an acre to 20 times that. During all this time we sent hundreds of millions of dollars back. So, Senator Wehrbein, the argument for local control means you just have a different set of people spending money and if you drive or fly across the State of Nebraska and observe the beautiful new schools, you observe the many other public buildings that you find in local areas, you find that it isn't unusual, not at all unusual for local people to be just as irresponsible in the spending of tax dollars as we are at this level. So that argument doesn't hold any water with me. Now I have a high respect for city and county school boards and they will all tell you, the major part of our problem is that you impose upon us certain requirements which cause us to spend money. If you repeal those requirements, we can roll back our budgets and we must all plead guilty, and I among them, to some of that same activity. I would hope that those of you who are here today know that this Legislature can do what I am saying it can do. If you want to amend a bill that's not germane, you just get a ruling that it's germane, all respect to the Chairperson. If you disagree, you can move to overrule. If you don't get the votes, the amendment becomes germane and you're on your way. The point that I want to make is this, unless someone challenges this, then it's law. Now, you're going to say, well, that will be challenged. I suggest that the depreciation method of taxing farm equipment, livestock and business inventory will also be challenged. It's going to be challenged. The