

have very long-lived heavy equipment that's currently paying a great deal of tax that will no longer be taxable. I just can't quite visualize how we have accurate figures on what this type of a tax is going to raise and I would bet, along with several others of you in here, that considerable shortfalls would be felt at the county levels and we will be here next year adopting the taxes that we have already been talking about to try to get something done. I would certainly hope over this spring and summer, after we have adjourned sine die, that some attention will be given to the recognition that property, in itself, should pay for services that are related to property, the protection of it, the enhancement of value of it, the access to it, the protection against crime for it...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: ...and all of those types of things. But to expect property, in itself, to bear the burden of social programs, such as in indigent care and the education in our community colleges and our K-12 public school systems is wrong, because those things are the obligations of the people as a whole. Hopefully, some very serious effort will be given to the idea that we have a very viable tax base that nobody has been looking at and that's the economic activity in the state. We know that property cannot continue to bear this kind of a load and still keep people living in it, buying it, or building it, or improving it. It is just not economically possible, when outside of this state opportunities are so much better.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, Madam President, members of the body, Senator Wehrbein, would you answer a question for me, please?

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President. Yes, Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: The reason I am asking you this question is your name is on the amendment. Does this...is going to cause for a tax increase in the counties?