

homeowner has had enough. I know that the small business person has had enough. I still contend, as I have said earlier, the continual escalation of expenditures on both the state and local level makes it virtually impossible to draft a tax collection plan that is equitable because we are simply collecting too much revenue. But we're not going to collect it anymore for the railroads and the unwillingness of someone to say what is fair for the railroads, this is the Nebraska version of the 4-R plan. It says we're going to try to within the realm of possibility that's available to us to treat agricultural property...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...in the same manner and percentages as we treat railroad property, as big as that...big exception, of course, some people in the agriculture area are going to escape scot-free and some are going to pay a lot more than 30 percent. But any indication that the railroads are going to belly-up to the bar and lay down four point some million is, I think, looking at it through rose-colored glasses. And if I were them, I wouldn't do it either. I would go to court for a lot less than that. And I think they would win. I think that we ought to take a look at this. Senator Lamb withdrew his amendment because he said it didn't have a chance. I still think it's best to vote on these bills...these amendments so that we know how people feel about them and a year from now, or two years from now we can have a record as to what really happened when equity was discussed in taxation. I ask you to support the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have a feeling I'm prolonging the debate for no particular good purpose because every time something is said that, in my opinion, is not accurate I feel compelled to respond. The tax issue that's before us that the state's spending too much money, is not the issue here. That issue is on appropriation bills and one just votes no, I guess, or reduces them. Incidentally, LB 1063 did have a very tight lid on local governments on the property tax side which was an effort on the revenue side to restrict their budgets. And the state, very frankly, if we had as a matter of public policy some...a couple of approaches to taxation and budgeting, which is pending legislation which we will not deal with this year, wouldn't have some of the problems