

us to keep...to hold together, and that is do not create exemptions unless you can properly fund them. And I think that certainly creating a sales tax exemption here, a straight exemption without properly having the reporting mechanism as part of it, is creating...is part of that problem. Thirdly, I, too, as I think Senator Beutler and I tried to do it when we faced this amendment before, is if we were going to exempt farm machinery, that all machinery should be exempt. Well, obviously, that was much too expensive and couldn't physically be done. But we went ahead and agreed to this sales tax rebate plan as a way of maintaining the tax base in the local subdivisions. And possibly Senator Moore can come back in the regular session with some evidence that the system is simply not working, and we can take another look at it. And that may very well be true. And that the reporting that is necessary to do the existing rebate program is onerous. And then so be it and we'll take a look at it and maybe look at other options. But I think we're leading or edging back towards where we don't want to be creating exemptions in the state side of the funding problem that causes the same problem as restrictions on the personal property side, because, obviously, the cost of state government are paid with either one or the other, and we have to be conscience of both exemptions on the state side and the local side. So, for those three reasons, though there may be a reason, potential reason stated for addressing this problem in the regular session if there is evidence of a problem, at this point I can't see an overwhelming reason to change what we already did. Thank you.

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

SENATOR HABERMAN: Madam President, members of the body, I wasn't going to say anything, but I'm going to now as I've sat here and I heard the senators from Omaha and the Senators from Lincoln, in essence, say tax them, folks. It's not my folks that are paying the tax, it's them people out there in the country. Now I heard, the other day I heard the Omaha Chamber of Commerce say to a committee, we support agriculture. That's what they said, we support agriculture. But here in this body, to me, it doesn't seem as though some of the senators are supporting agriculture. The reason that this amendment was defeated in the committee, folks, is because we wanted LB 1 to come out clean, and it came out clean, that's why the amendment is being offered on the floor. Now, we've heard it said it's going to reduce...a reduction of the state base. We can't stand