

taxes and to help keep the overall tax burden as low as possible and spread to as many people as possible. So, for that...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...point, I think it's clearly important to have a uniform approach to this and I, again, would urge you to support that portion of the committee amendments. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam President, many good arguments are being given on the floor based upon what Senator Hall has said and Senator Warner has said. We're not going to rewrite tax policy during this special session. Insofar as the matter of exemptions was concerned, we started that policy many, many years ago before any of us, with the possible exception of Senator Warner, were present on the floor. We exempted intangibles. We don't even talk about it. We exempted household goods and, as Senator Warner pointed out in committee several days ago, no money was sent back, in his opinion, or his memory, to reimburse locals for the loss of the income from the household good tax. During the arguments in support of Amendment 1, I almost became physically ill when I continued to hear the individuals who paid for the ad say repeatedly, we're going to keep this money at the local level. Well, ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you, when you have a business that's losing money and you pay...you pay taxes at the local level in a five-figure amount and it's more than you made on the operation, there is no particular justification or benefit to the individual who supports that local government in that manner. There's nothing sacred about taxes at the local level. Nuts! It is just as easy for the local level to become fat and lazy as it is for the state and the feds. A dozen years ago we had a federal budget...federal debt of 900 billion and today it's 4 trillion. Five years ago we had a budget that was middle...or 700 million, something like that, now we're a billion above that, and we're growing, and we've got a problem. We're 200 million overdrawn at the bank and going to be worse. And so you're not going to make it up by taxing farm machinery, ladies and gentlemen. You're not going to make it up, let me tell you, by taxing these folks either. They've seen to that. I have been in meetings, ladies and gentlemen, and I said at a meeting that I spoke at several weeks ago there was a time when the