

November 11, 1992 LB 1

funds for personal services, or else there's going to be massive layoffs. Can't happen, because I think, ladies and gentlemen, we may well have reached the point of maximum taxation in many areas. Again, I don't know how the homeowner in this town, living in an average size home, can go up to the county treasurer and pay 3,000 bucks a year taxes, and then be told that we are holding down the property tax while at the same time income taxes have increased, the sales tax was increased, all the various excise taxes have increased, and we have embarked upon a whole new series of taxes. I think that we have to recognize that we have not been frugal and that we have done worse than that,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...we have allowed for discrimination in taxation, and those who in the past have historically been able to pay are not going to pay as much, and those who are less able to pay are going to pay more.

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

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, I can't support this bill for a number of reasons. But one of them that I want to discuss in detail is the 2 percent depreciation surcharge. And this is that it hits our young farmers and young businessmen right where it shouldn't be, because they're trying to get started. These young farmers and small businesses have to have a lot of personal property to barely make a living. And here we're taking after them. Like Senator Hall, Senator Landis, Senator Beutler, and I can look over quite a few, Senator Wesely, don't need much property...personal property to make a living, but the young farmer does, the young businessman does. Senator Warner has been in agriculture long enough so he probably doesn't have too much depreciable property. And if he does buy a new combine, or a new tractor, he buys one piece of equipment at a time. But a young farmer has bought his complete line of equipment and has a huge depreciation, same with a young businessman. I'm involved in a number of businesses, and it isn't too hard on us because most of our equipment is depreciated out. And if we buy new equipment or used equipment it's just one piece at a time. But I think we need to look at our young farmers and our young businessmen because our population in Nebraska is aging. And we need to encourage these young people to take over, but how can