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they do it, and how can they stay afloat. They just can't do it. It just takes so much property, personal property to eek out a living. Also, let's talk about the centrally assessed property. We...when we passed LB 829 it was a 4 percent to them. But now we're giving...we're cutting that right in half. And I don't think that many of those centrally assessed property owners are in financial trouble like some of our young farmers are. Senator Schmit brought up a good point yesterday, sales tax on energy. And this is true, we're trying to get more ethanol plants going in our state. This tax on energy is horrifying to them, because they use a lot of energy. Our dehy alfalfa plants in Nebraska use a lot of energy. And, by the way, we only have about half of those left because the other half have gone by the wayside. And we're just encouraging the rest of them to bow out. Also the fertilizer plants use a lot of energy, and we're taxing those. So that means that fertilizer will go up for these farmers. Reduction in the collection fee for retailers, and I know it doesn't amount to much, but it's still a little more. And still when we passed the tire fee, the Department of Revenue, do you know what they charged for collecting that fee? The first year was over 10 percent. And I called their attention to it, and I think last year it dropped down to 7.4 percent, or something like that. And still we think 3 percent is too much for that retailer. And that retailer doesn't have near as good a collection system...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: ...as the Department of Revenue does, in fact small businesses get some bad checks. They have some accounts that don't get paid. And so they eat that collection fee. Let's talk about the compromise a little bit. A dollar a ton, that's a sham, it's no compromise, and only for one year, or less than a year. So I think that some of us rural interests have been sold down the stream. Sales tax on machinery, well we had that. Of course, it's a little better that it's up front and the farmers don't have to reply or go through all this rigamarole to get the tax back. But I just think this bill is a sham, and I think that we should vote against it and try to come up with something better.

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

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam Chairman and members, you know if we