

November 12, 1992 LB 1

Just a few minutes ago, just before I came up on the floor, I received a phone call from a farmer. He was speaking on behalf of a group of farmers that were having a meeting that morning, and they knew we were on Final Reading of LB 1. And he said to me, he said, now that Senator Schmit is gone, we expect you to speak up for us, and we expect you to handle our cares. I don't have a coalition of 10, or 15, or 20 senators from District 22 or from Columbus. I have only myself for my vote. I don't have the coalitions that Senator Chambers was talking about. I do have a split rural and urban constituency, though, as Senator Coordsen did mention. Some of the farmers seem to think that I favor the rural people more than I do the farmers, and some of the urban people seem to think I vote for the farmers instead of them. But they were kind enough to say that we know that you have a hard task ahead of you, and we appreciate what you're doing down there. Since we're all reminiscing today, I would just like to say that Senator Schellpeper said he didn't like the tax...this bill. Well, nobody likes a tax bill. Nobody wants to tax their constituents. I don't know one person in this body that does like a tax bill. I also don't think we should blame the Supreme Court for what they've done to us. We've done this mess ourselves. Throughout the years the Legislature has created the mess that we're in, not the Supreme Court. So I think it's a little unfair to always say, go back to our constituencies and say, look what the Supreme Court did to us. We all have a copy of the Constitution at our desks. We all have a copy of the Constitution in our rooms. We've done this to ourselves. I would also like to say I empathize with some of the farmers that come to me and tell me that their sons can't start a new...their new bus...can't start a farm, and they can't do this, and they can't do that. I also empathize with the urban constituencies that come to me and tell me they can't make it either, they can't make it on minimum wages that they're getting and have to work three and four jobs in order to make a full-time wage, and they don't get any benefits. So we're weighing the one out against the other. The urbans and the rurals both suffer the same thing, which is a bad economy right now. Bankruptcies are at an all time high my attorney friends at home tell me, an all time high, and there are just as many, just as many urban people that are filing bankruptcy as farmers are. So my constituency is divided, I have half urban and half rural. And to my farmer friends that called today and said, please speak out for me, that's what I'm doing today. I don't like the bill. Nobody likes to tax their people. Thank you.