

April 12, 1995

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR ROBINSON: ... (interrupted) to look at.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I also rise in support of the motion to suspend the rules. I don't want to discuss the proposal, but I do want to talk about the problems in rural Nebraska. I don't have to tell you that I'm a farmer, I don't have to tell you how I feel about property taxes. But I'd like to just state one of the problems we have in this... in Nebraska, the average tax on an acre of land in Kansas is \$1 an acre. The average tax on an acre of agricultural land in the State of Nebraska is \$7. I represent a district that borders Kansas by over 100 miles. The agriculture sector represents 2.34 percent of the population, less than 2.5 percent of the population of the State of Nebraska is farmers and yet they are paying one-third of the property taxes in the State of Nebraska. I applaud the Revenue Committee for bringing this proposal forward. I'd like to see it move forward. Something needs to be done. And when they talk about property tax problems in Lincoln and Omaha every farmer in the State of Nebraska applauds and says, yes, we finally have an ally. So let's move on and let's solve the problems. It would be nice to do something quicker, it would be nice to do something about property taxes this session, but I don't see the will of the body to do that at this point in time. With that, I'll conclude my remarks and thank you for listening.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Would recognize Senator Brown, who will be followed by Senators Hartnett, Jensen, Wickersham, Cudaback, Vrtiska, Beutler and Schimek.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support the motion. I believe that it is absolutely the time that we need to deal with this. The single issue that I hear the most from constituents about is their property taxes. And I realize that Douglas County has peculiar problems in terms of equalization and valuation. We had a 10 percent across-the-board increase in valuation, and many of the people