

of that. Are we ready in Nebraska for that? Are we willing to do that voluntarily or are we going to have to have a bill that's going to mandate it? Those of you in the subject matter committees that are doing that, are you willing to make it mandatory that you, that this be investigated over five years? Senator Beutler, I think, I will, I'm going to oppose your resolution but I think it does...or your amendment, but I think it does indicate the need to discuss this seriously...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...about a time table and a time frame of making the realistic decisions and not just talking in the policy sense. So, with that, I'm not going to spend the rest of my time, but I think we all have to recognize, are we willing, what we are willing to do at this point, will the rest of Nebraskans be willing to go along with that when we ultimately get down to the effect that it's going to have on them.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would...I would briefly like to draw the body's attention to the report I handed out this morning entitled, "Agricultural Property Taxation in a Nine State Region". I don't have any solutions to the property tax problem, but I think I can bring an agricultural perspective to this body on how property taxes affects rural Nebraska, and that should surprise no one. But you'll find that we're 40 percent higher in our property taxes as it affects agriculture versus any of the other eight states around us. One thing you may find interesting, back in the late eighties, we actually surpassed Texas in the number of cattle on feed. And Kansas was a distant third to us. Well, since then we have not only been relegated second place, we're now number three in the nation in the number of cattle on feed. And I believe a big impact that has caused this shift of cattle on feed to Kansas has been Nebraska's property tax problem. Senator Hillman may argue that part of the problem is Initiative 300, and she may well be right. But I hope that my urban colleagues will have some empathy towards what's happening in agriculture and how the taxes affect us. I have certainly tried to be supportive of LB 775. I was supportive of the Micron initiatives, even though I've been severely chastised by many of my rural constituents. I would just finally draw your