

90 percent of the people actually lived on farms and derived their incomes from agriculture. Today we know that it's changed, two-thirds of our population now lives in the eastern one-third of the state and much of the income is not derived from the land or from agriculture. I agree with Senator Schrock in his statements concerning the proportion of taxes that are paid by rural. And I have an article from Seward County and York County, in the last twenty years, property taxes have increased over 250 percent in those counties. So I think this brings to mind that it certainly is a problem that needs some solution. The initiative petitions are out there because the Legislature really has not addressed the problem in recent years. So I'm certainly hopeful that we will address it. I think demanding more efficiency, we're going to have to look at reducing spending and how we're going to come up with this. I hope that all of us, whether we're rural or urban, will work together and come up with, with something that is equitable for the taxpayers of Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Wehrbein. Senator Wehrbein waives off. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Withem's comment about he's not going to vote for this parallels my view of it too. It just brings to, brings a point out that when we talk about what has to be done, compromises are going to have to be made. None of us wants to raise any of the taxes we have, but some of the things that we do will cause apparent changes from one type of another. It's like an accountant's balance sheet. We have a list of liabilities. Some of them are called property tax, some of them are called sales tax, some of them are called income tax, whether federal or state. And whether we pay under the label of property tax or pay under the label of income or sales tax, we still have the same problem. If we want to pay less taxes, we have to be judicial about how we spend them. And in the state of Nebraska, I believe the most serious problem that we have is the way our school districts are organized and administered. And over a period of time, we're going to have to bite the bullet in this Legislature and recognize the fact that our local constituents are looking to us to help with the way those schools are run and the way they're organized. And we need to be responsible and look at it very seriously and see if we can't save a bunch of money for our property tax payers by addressing our education problem. Thank