

February 13, 1996 LB 349

into three parts--sales tax, income tax, and property tax. The fact that...the thing that I'm doing here, in including income as to determine wealth, falls into not the sales tax or income tax, it falls into the property tax. And I think that is wherein the confusion lies. It merely adds income as the determinant of wealth in the school aid formula, in the property tax division. The debate has been good. I think that I can understand Senator Janssen not supporting my bill because I seem to have the same type of school district we have. I have both urban and rural in that district, and it helps some and it does...it penalizes others, which is what it does now. I would just have to say that I think and I hope that I'm wrong, but I think what I'm seeing here is an urban/rural split. I hope that's not right because that's not what we're about. This is one Nebraska, it's not rural Nebraska and urban Nebraska, whatever you care to call everybody else. This is about our entire state, it's one Nebraska. And had we, the Legislature, been really serious about property taxes and school finance reform then perhaps the rancher from Atkinson would not be out there with his petition to remove property taxes entirely. And we need to stop that. This is our intent right here, on the floor of the Legislature, to do something, to show the people. As Senator Bromm said, his district may be adversely affected by this, but he supports the concept. We need to do something. We need to have this income factor in the formula. It's critically necessary that the school finance formula...school finance system recognize the ability of the school district to pay, and that is what putting the income factor in LB 349 would do. Mr. Chairman, I'll just close by asking you to and asking the members of the body to advance LB 349 to E & R Initial or Select File. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Robak. You've heard the closing. The house is under call. We're looking for Senator Pirsch and Senator Chambers. Senator Pirsch and Senator Chambers, please report to the floor and record your presence. The house is under call. Senator Bernard-Stevens, we cannot locate.... Senator Bernard-Stevens indicates that that's close enough. The issue before the body is the advancement to E & R Initial of LB 349. Yes, Senator.

SENATOR ROBAK: Do I have the option of asking for the two sen...missing senators to come?