

SENATOR WILL: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...still prevail in some areas, and you're going to find that those limitations or those things come into play much greater. I am sorry, Mr. President, did you say time?

SENATOR WILL: I said time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I am sorry. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. LB 1114 is the guts of the whole discussion on property tax. It's the whole package is in this bill, because if this bill doesn't go, everything else is probably going to fall apart, too. This bill, in my opinion, is too severe on small rural towns and small schools. It is going to drastically reduce the small towns. If you think we're having a hard time now in our small rural towns keeping them going because of the ag economy, because of everything else, if this bill passes in its current form, you won't have those small towns. They'll be gone. I think the Maurstad amendment is a step in the right direction, but I think we need to find some way to make up the difference that some of these small towns lose. LB 1114 does nothing about collecting property tax on the ability to pay. If I would sell my farm and put my money into CDs or stocks and bonds, you don't pay property taxes, yet you have the income. Now with my farm, if I don't have any income, I still pay those property taxes. We're not getting to the problem that we have in rural Nebraska about the ability to pay the property taxes. This does nothing about the ability to pay. It's going to lower the levy limits. As Senator Coordsen says, it does allow the vote to raise, and if you think these small towns are going to vote to triple their taxes, double their taxes, that won't happen. They will vote to raise them a little bit, but until they actually lose their paved streets, or their lights, or their police protection, they probably won't vote for it. I think the state of Nebraska has to come to grips with our property tax. We need to find some way to make up the difference. I had a bill in the committee that would a sales tax on food. I think that's the way we can make up some of the difference. There is also bills in there to put...to broaden the tax on services. We don't have to raise