

disadvantaged, because of reasons beyond their control primarily, but they're dramatically disadvantages in the proportion of their take-home pay they have to pay because of their profession. I don't think Senator Schrock and the people that are working on this are out of line in asking a small measure of protection in the same manner that it was...that was indicated twice by the citizens of the state of Nebraska. So, with that, I would support the Schrock amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam Lieutenant Governor. First, I want to say that Senator Kristensen makes a good argument and I'm sure that he...he's been instrumental in what's been taking place, but I am going to support the Schrock amendment. I guess I need to indicate, as many of you probably understand, that over the years there's been some wide fluctuation in the value of farmland, mainly due to the sale of farmland and how some of it is sold and the prices it brings. And then there becomes a hue and cry that land is selling for a lot more than it's being valued at and, therefore, it should be changed. Unfortunately, much of that comes due to outside forces. People from outside of the area that have huge amounts of money and wanted some type of a tax write-off tend to pay in excess of what the value of the land actually is and, therefore, it tends to sway the thinking of some people that, in fact, land is worth more than it is. It's always been my belief that land is worth no more than its ability to return a profit back to the person that owns it and, when it gets above that point, as far as I'm concerned, it's overvalued. I'd hope that you'd look at this carefully and one thing I think we need to understand, and this is pointed towards my friends in the towns and cities, that the homes out there in the county are going to be taxed at the same rate as they are any place else, so there's no disparity there. It's only the land, the land and the production that it's able to return to the person who owns it that we're talking about. And if you watch the...particularly where I come from, where we have dryland farming, where we have to depend on mother nature to supply us a sufficient amount of rainfall to even make a crop, and I'm here to tell you that there are years when we actually show a great loss, but we still have to pay those taxes as they're assessed or end up losing our land. I'm old enough to remember my dad losing a lot of land because he wasn't able to make payments on the interest and the taxes years ago when we