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call it a lodging tax, we call it an excise tax, we call it a gas tax, we call it whatever we may call it. The truth of the matter is simply this, all taxes are paid from the incomes of all people. Historically, we have tried to confuse and confound the millions of people that exist that we're supposed to serve. But when I sit here on the floor and see a vote like the last one that's based more on fantasy than reality, I wonder. I'm an old man; whatever happens here doesn't make a whole lot of difference. But I think we stand...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...at the linchpin of the future, always, every day we're in session. And if we consider not the past, then the future is dim, certainly, for all of us who try to prepare for it. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Further discussion on the Raikes amendment? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if we were in an academic or philosophical discussion, I would agree with every word that Senator Coordsen uttered, every word. But remember, I said we're talking about practical politics now. Politics is about rewarding friends and punishing enemies, that's all it's about. And in the same way that Senator Coordsen correctly said that taxes are disguised by various names to try to make it seem less painful when that money is taken from the one who has to pay it, politics is given different names. Punishment takes on a different guise. Reward takes on a different guise, but there is a Governor sitting over there who controls a certain number of people in this body automatically, and we know it, he knows it, and they know it and I'm going to talk about it, because his influence affects what happens in this Legislature and it affects the job that I'm trying to do. So he's not going to get a free ride. Now on these kinds of bills that we have here, those of us who represent differing constituencies are going to have differing points of view on it. A reality that my rural and ag colleagues are going to have to realize is that more population is going to the cities, not just Omaha and Lincoln, but to the cities. And what is going to happen when it comes to the production of