

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 24, 2003      LB 759

we're in. And I think at this time it's the wrong time to make this dramatic increase in spending which the homestead exemption part of this bill is. And with that, I'd end my comments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Janssen, followed by Senator Raikes, Senators Vrtiska, Hartnett, Kremer, Baker, Brashear, Beutler, and Landis. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. The district that I pay...the school district that I pay my taxes in receive about 45 percent of their operation money from sales and income tax. A lot of people don't realize that. And when you tell them that, they say, can't be, not for the property taxes that I pay to that school. Well, it is. It's in black and white. And they are very fortunate, because they're not taking all of that money to run that school out of their property taxes. And it's a sad situation, because the sale of land, of agriculture land in this state, keeps rising. And we all know where that's coming from. It's from people who don't really care about this state, come in and buy huge amounts of land. If it doesn't make any money for them, they don't care. But the poor rancher out there, the poor Jim Joneses of the country, are trying to scratch out a living out of that land. And the only way they can do that is to probably expand their operation and pay an enormous price, driven up by people out of state with so much money they have to find a place to put it. So that's what's happening, and it's going to continue to do that. And somewhere along the line, there's going to be a day of reckoning, and when that's going to be I'm not sure. But some day people will understand the fact that you can only pay so much in taxes on your land and still make a living. If you want to live in a \$300,000 house, that's your choosing. I choose not to. My property taxes aren't that high. I don't mind paying my property taxes, because they're not that extreme. I pay my income tax. I didn't pay as much this year as I did last year, and that's a lot of us. That's why our receipts are down. And I...in my opinion, they'll probably keep on going down. I don't know, is Senator Brashear here? Yeah. Senator Brashear, I'll give you the rest of my time. And the severability clause that...it's all right with me, Senator Brashear. That's fine. I think it is constitutional. I don't