

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

May 7, 2003

LB 287

And I just can't understand how we can hope to make more cuts in that area of the state and deny the youth of this state an opportunity to get the kind of education that they're entitled to, and that goes on up through the...through college and into the workplace. So I'm again going to sit back and listen, and hopefully I can learn enough to make the correct vote. With that, Mr. President, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Kremer, there are no further lights on wishing to speak. You're recognized to close on your amendment, AM1746 to LB 287.

SENATOR KREMER: Okay. Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I failed to mention that Senator Schrock and Senator Landis cosigned this amendment. I was assuming Senator Landis was for it. But then he mentioned that he may not be. I would just like to mention a little bit about the property tax we've talked about. And the machinery goes onto personal property tax also. I know the percentage of funding for schools from property tax is less than it was 30 years ago. But one thing that people very seldom stop to think about, or even mention, is that 30 years ago, one operator probably farmed half of what they do now. Commodity prices are the same as they were 30 years ago, sometimes less in some years. So a single operator, the only way he'd be able to survive is to be able to become more efficient. And that's because we've had to grow in size, and machinery costs more, so you have to spread it over more acres. So one individual operator has twice the land, twice the machinery costs that they're paying tax on. So even though the percentage may have gone down, the total amount per individual operator has gone up substantially. Another difference, I think, when Senator Raikes had mentioned that industrial equipment or equipment that's used maybe on maintaining roads or building roads is double taxed, that could be. And two wrongs doesn't make a right. That seems to be wrong also. But one thing that they are able to do is to pass that cost on. I thought maybe we ought to put a cost of living increase into our commodity prices. It would be very helpful if you'd do that, and go back to 30 years ago, guess what we'd be getting now. It would be probably \$10 a bushel, something like that. But we're not able to do that, and that's probably what is the most