

was a mistake. You sold millions and millions of dollars worth of land on today's market. We have got \$60 million in that fund from that sale of those lands, but it also means that there are school districts out in the western part of the state that don't get any in lieu of tax payments also because there are school districts out there that don't have any of these lands within their borders. What it does do, however, is since we rely so heavily on the property tax in Nebraska for the support of our schools, this says that land, even though it may be school land, is going to support the district that it is located within at a somewhat equal basis with all other land. Now I think that is fair and reasonable and I can give you an example. I checked into this last year before we had our hearing this summer. I happen to own a section and right next to it I also happen to have the lease on a school section. Now the taxes that the section that I own this year paid to the local school district was within just a few dollars of exactly the same amount that the in lieu of tax payment was for the school section that was in that district. Now I think that is fair. I think it is equitable. If there is a problem I suggest to you the problem is that we rely too heavily on the property taxes to start with. If, in the wisdom of this body, we reduce that reliance on the property taxes, we go to some other method of financing education, then I would certainly be willing to look at methods to change, if you will, the formula as to how we distribute these funds. The other thing I need to point out is this four plus million dollars is not general fund dollars, it is dollars from the revenue generated by this land and as pointed out by Senator Lamb and others, it is by Constitution. It can only go to one place and that is the schools. Now I will have to also tell you as from my position of being a State Senator, hopefully I can recognize the entire state, it's been pointed out in the committee and came out last summer, there are those people, I can tell you quite honestly there is a number of people out in my district, that say we ought to sell the damn land. We ought to sell the land, put it on our local tax rolls and then we won't be generating all these monies for the Omaha and Lincoln area schools. Well I have told those people out there that I am willing to do that the day that we start making more land and quit making more dollars. Now I think I am looking at it from the good of the entire state, from the good of the education of the entire state and for the good of the school children of this state. This land is not for my purposes, it is not for your purposes, it is for the school children of this state. The Constitution is pretty clear about that. Now I think that is the reason, and a good one, for this in lieu of tax payment to go to the school district the land is within and I would urge the body's rejection of the Kilgarin amendment and the adoption of the bill as drafted. Thank you.