

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

March 10, 2000 LB 1107

57 percent; sales tax collections have risen 43 percent. Now we go through a couple years here of depressed farm economy, and certainly I can appreciate the proportionate cost of property tax to the farm income and how that all comes into being and what that percentage does. But we've also, during the depressed farm economy, we've really had a robust economy in sales and income. And that has...we've had several years now, and it doesn't take any mental giant to understand what we've had in the way of the stock market increase, and we've had lots of people that have also been on that ride, a lot of Nebraskans have made dollars along that way. But I am one of those who also feels that one of these days we're going to have a correction. One of these days that economy in the cities is not going to be what it is today. And when that happens, then what happens to our schools? Then also this week we all participated in another exemption in that we exempted, yes, some TV equipment that will not receive...we'll not receive taxes on. All of you, I'm sure, have also seen the large list of sales exemptions that we do have. And the Revenue Committee, without a doubt, gets several bills every year for more of those exemptions.

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: Every time we give one of those exemptions, there's less sales tax that go on, whether that be on automobiles, whether it be on TV equipment, or whatever it might be, we're giving away more of that income. We're also suffering from e-mail, or not e-mail, the e-commerce that is going on, that we do not receive any income tax or any sales tax off of, sales tax, not income tax. And I think that's going to increase also. In other words, we're going to have a decrease of income tax because of that situation, and certainly for an individual state to do something about that is difficult. The federal government, I don't know if they're going to address that issue or not. But I am very concerned when we say that we're going to put a lid on property tax. And I don't like to pay property tax. I'm looking at April 1 and seeing, you know, where I've got to come up with my dollars.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Time.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you.