

first time I consider my most important message that I would like to get out and for that reason I would beg your indulgence to listen. Ideally, this would have been the day I was in the Virgin Islands. In my area it is fair to say that no issue is hotter on both sides than this particular issue and I am going to fairly guess that a significant portion of the people here are from that area. Some of the things I am going to say in the next nine and a half minutes are going to anger considerably both sides, but what I am saying I believe is the truth and what has to be faced up to for the future. It has been said that there are two issues here. Issue one, the quality of education issue, and issue two, the taxation issue. This bill purportedly would attempt to solve the taxation issue and it would purportedly do that by saying, Mr. Farmer, in the Class I districts, no longer can you have your tax haven or the tax haven that some people believe exists. And I don't accept the fact that it does exist. I would say that the issue is truly a taxation issue but it goes beyond that and this bill and its approach will not solve the problem. The real issue underlying everything here is the financing system for education. Nebraska finances its schools almost exclusively, by exclusive I mean well over 50 percent, by something called property tax and that property tax the last 25 years has created a wartime mode between the various types of property owners. And financing our educational system with property tax is, in my opinion, one of the most stupid things we can do. A house has no income earning capacity inherently and yet the house is where you produce statistically in the State of Nebraska the city home, most of the people using the educational facilities and the costs. By the same token, the farm which has vast amounts of property may well not be producing the number of children using the financial...or the educational system, yet because we rely so heavily on property and we make property the sole God in this whole educational thing, we have created wars to capture property and that is exactly what we are going through here today. It is a war to capture property. It is a war on the part of my people in Neligh or my people in O'Neill, to capture the property of my people in a rural area, my people in a rural district. Now, if a doctor comes in to treat...well, quite frankly, to treat me for my tummy being a little bigger than it should be, unless he addresses the fundamental cause of that tummy being too big, which is too much going in at this end, he is never going to cure it. He can give me aspirins. He can give me everything in the