

basis, and apparently you do. I'm getting a little sick and tired of it. I helped Omaha and Lincoln, as many of the others did, or you wouldn't have gotten it. Now stop and think a little bit. We are helping you too. There are property owners in Omaha and Lincoln as well as there are in rural Nebraska. Have you stopped and thought about that? I'm getting a little bit tired of these people from the big city that are talking against something that will help themselves as well as helping the rural people. Senator Johnson has long felt that property tax was too lopsided. Now he's Chairman of the Revenue Committee and he's got an opportunity to help it, and what does he do, talk against it. Now I say to you stop and think what you are doing this morning. We have now the printouts that will be distributed to you. You can see what it will do to your local school district. I hope you will look at it. I would hope that we will get an opportunity to close, too. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Carsten. Next the Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, it is amazing to me how little information people have about this bill. It is also interesting to me how many people are not aware of where individual senators have taken a position on this bill. I think it is very apparent, and Senator Carsten has touched upon an issue here which is a little sensitive, and which is very vital, and we just may as well bring it out in the open, there is a very distinct division between rural and urban on this bill and perhaps on this amendment. I want to point out though, however, that I agree... and I have an amendment of my own which was drawn rather hastily and which will need to be redrawn. But I do not believe that we do have the authority to delegate to the Department of Revenue our responsibility insofar as the determination is to be made relative to the allocation of funds for the support of schools. That is a legislative responsibility. I want to point out also that I am not a Johnny-come-lately in this area, neither is Senator Carsten nor several others who have tried for many years to devise some system for providing some basic tax relief for property. I know there are people who are going to disagree with me. But I believe that if the funding situation were resolved that there would still be some, but there would not be nearly as much opposition to the reorganization. I want