

Class I's have lower levies and they have a larger overall valuation. But the residents of the rural areas, and there are a lot of them who have both the high levies and the high valuations, are the forgotten people of the entire issue. You know when we discussed the personal property tax situation on this floor I didn't hear from very many people. Most people, both rural and urban, forgot where it ever originated. There has been an erosion of those individuals over the years. When we discuss what is going to happen here in a few weeks on other property tax issues we are not going to be hearing from anyone. It is easy to zero in on one small segment. Support of schools by Class I's, or Class III's, or Class V's or VI's, and those are separate, and IV's are separate, but the rural residents of the Class II's and III's are the ones who are paying through the nose. One of these days they are going to be tired of it. They have a right to be represented. That right rests with all of us. That is why I believe, and I have stood here for many years, I've implored you, I've introduced bills, not once has a bill ever hit the floor, it's been in the Revenue Committee many times, but it has never gotten to the floor, that would give the kind of relief that is necessary not just for Class I residents, not just for Class II's and III's or IV, V's and VI's, but for everyone. Once that relief is granted then you are going to see a resolution of the rest of the solution. But until that relief is granted you have a very small minority out there. I'll tell you something if you think you've got problems now read in the World Herald last Saturday, ag land price dropped the sharpest in 73 years. Try to continue to support those schools, ladies and gentlemen, with that kind of drop in the valuation and you're going to have a job you can't handle and it won't be handled. The only way it can be handled is through sales taxes and income taxes. If that doesn't happen, if that doesn't happen let me predict something else that will happen, there will be an initiative and there will be a referendum and there will be people voting, and they are going to put a lid on you on property taxes and the entire issue is going to be brought out of the hands of this Legislature. It should not be decided by the Revenue Department. They have enough trouble now. I can't even get them to agree on how they ought to collect their taxes that have to do with fuel and oil, etc.

PRESIDENT: One minute.