

their own darn high school is wrong.

PRESIDENT: Senator, we go down the list here. We've had some lights on. It's a little bit confusing. We're now speaking on the DeCamp amendment. Senator Haberman. Senator Schmit. Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I know that there are many members that are very attentive to what is occurring on LB 662 because they recognize this is a very important bill. I wanted to emphasize once again what Senator Landis said because what he said is of critical importance to the understanding of LB 662. Senator Landis said unequivocally that 75 percent of the agricultural acres in Nebraska are in school districts that are not free-standing Class I school districts and by that he meant that are in school districts that are either Class II, Class III school districts or Class I school districts with Class VI overlays. 25 percent of the agricultural acres in Nebraska are in free-standing Class I school districts. He said we have a two-tiered system of taxing people for the education of children, one tier applicable to the free-standing Class I's and the other tier applicable to the Class II's, the Class III's and those Class I's within a Class VI. Senator Landis said maintenance of that kind of two-tier structure with the inherent inequities is wrong and he is right. He then picks up Senator DeCamp's amendment and he says, Senator DeCamp proposes to take that favored Class I school district, 25 percent of the agricultural land in our state, and continue to treat it differently from the other 75 percent of the agricultural and rangeland in Nebraska to continue right down the path of the two-tier structure in financing education. So even if there are some seductive qualities about the DeCamp amendment, because it puts all Class I land in a single high school taxing district, and if even if that sounds somewhat attractive at the outset, be mindful of the fact that only affects 25 percent of the agricultural land in Nebraska. The other 75 percent is already within the kind of taxing structure that we essentially believe to be fair and equitable and just. We cannot continue in our state to go down two separate paths in how we finance and structure education. The time is at hand for us to walk down only a single path in how we structure and finance education. That may well be every parcel of property in our state will support the direct financing of kindergarten through the twelfth grade