

Ag Committee, I can quite frankly tell you, as Senator Schmit has told you, that those in the agricultural sector just simply cannot continue to pay, to continue to support schools at the level they are paying at this point. His method that he is outlining in this amendment I think gets to the heart of the problems. It is starting to take away the inequity of rural property carrying the biggest load of supporting many of our schools in the rural areas of our state. I think that it accomplishes what we need to do. If we are just simply worried about passing LB 662 just to advance it, without actually addressing the problem of tax equity and wait for some pie in the sky idea to come out next year or the year after, I'm afraid that we're getting the cart before the horse here. I'd like to see us address the tax problem. I think that is what Senator Schmit has been telling us from the very beginning. Let's visit about it. This is the vehicle to do it. I know that the members of the Revenue Committee have a tough job before them. This provides us an opportunity to discuss just the very problem that I think is extremely important and that is dividing the tax burden off of property, getting it over on income and sales as well, and that way possibly we can continue to support schools in the state.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers. Senator Vickers, before you start (gavel), our level of noise is intolerable. Thank you for holding it down. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I wonder if Senator Schmit would respond to a question, please.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Schmit, because this amendment is rather new to us, or at least to me, I haven't had a chance to really read through it, does it say that if a school district decides, through a vote of the people, to build a new school building that only one-third of the cost of that school building is going to be paid for by the property taxes and that the other third...or the other two-thirds is going to have to come from the state sources? Is that part of this amendment, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: They can exceed that, Senator Vickers, but