

cuts off the average property taxpayer, before he ever gets out of the chute, with his percentage. It doesn't matter that there is a \$1,000 cap, it is absolutely meaningless as you can see from the figures. It is absolutely meaningless for the average person because the percentage has wiped him out immediately. I think it is clear to everybody in here that the real burdened property taxpayer today is the average homeowner who is paying about 3 percent on actual value. In agricultural property there have been two major breaks already, and yes, I know they are under stress, and yes, they are paying a lot of taxes, but they have already gotten the two biggest breaks. One, under Amendment 4 provisions we are going to value their land differently; and, two, most agricultural property is at a lower mill levy. Now it is time, at least initially in our property tax battle, to treat that individual, that group who has not benefited as we've moved down this trail of various exemptions and property tax solutions. Who is that group? That group is the average homeowner. He didn't benefit from the personal property tax plan, in fact he had some things, yes, Senator Schmit, he had some things shifted over to him increasing his taxes. He didn't benefit from the Amendment 4, if anything he lost on that proposition. In 297,000, in other words 300,000 homes in this state, I repeat, under my proposal with a penny of sales tax the vast bulk, well in the 90 percentage, would get one-fourth of their property taxes eliminated. Now that is what we've been promising, here is the chance to deliver. Yes, under Senator Schmit's amendment adopted on 662, maybe the next step is another 100 million or 200 million. But let's make sure we target the money at the first instance, the first 100 million to really, absolutely clear, direct property tax relief rather than run it through in a state aid formula, where I don't think you're going to see the relief, and make sure it goes to the group that is hurting the most, the homeowner. I would urge you to adopt the amendment. Then I hope we would advance the bill and really do this for the first time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hannibal, you are next, but may I introduce some guests in the north balcony, please, of Senator Eret. They are 65 students from Crete, Nebraska, accompanied by their teachers. Would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Senator Hannibal, then Senator Nelson.