

situation last year having to do with farm valuation and so forth brought out very clearly that in the county in which I live, especially, the property tax assessment was in bad shape. I went to a county commissioners meeting approximately a month ago, six weeks ago, couldn't get in the door because people were objecting, somewhat because of the raise in property tax, but mostly from the unevenness, the unequalness of the way in which property tax is being levied. With that unevenness presently there, I think it is very reasonable that we should allow the 5 cents instead of the 4.2.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Nichol, and the Chair would like to announce that Senator Marsh has guests in the north balcony this morning. They are 42 eighth graders from the Cathedral of the Risen Christ, accompanied by their teacher. We would like you to know that we welcome you to the Legislature. We would like to have you stand and be recognized. The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman. Do you want to speak on the Lamb amendment, oh, the bill. Thank you, Senator. Senator Higgins, do you wish to speak on the Lamb amendment?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. My remarks are not for the rural senators. It is for the Omaha and Lincoln senators. We have been reading and hearing through the news media for months that it is time that we forget the rural and the urban fighting against one another. The senators that have brought us this bill this morning know the situation in their community the same as I know the situation in Omaha and the Lincoln senators know the situation in Lincoln. I think it would be wise if we used this bill to show once and for all that we are all Nebraskans. We are not rural and we are not urban. I think we should consider the plight of the farmer again. Some of them who have lost their farms and who may yet lose their farms may need some retraining in a new field. These technical community colleges can give it to them. As far as the mill levy goes, what Senator Lamb is proposing is eight-tenths of 1 percent. I don't think we are talking about that much money, but in any event, it will be up to the board and a two-thirds majority of the board to decide whether or not to raise their levy, and I think they have a valid argument when they say their property values have gone down so bad. Look what happened to us in Omaha. We had a tremendous increase in our valuation, and what happened?