

thoughtfully this vote, too. I can only give the vote knowing that my community college system has stayed under their current levying ability and I would admonish them to do the same at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, then Senator Smith.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I have a question from Senator Smith, I suppose, and if not her, Senator Nelson, but why is the Metro area not given this kind of permissive authority, Senator Smith?

SENATOR SMITH: It is my understanding that they don't need it, they don't want it. They are not even included because they don't want to be included.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you. I just noticed also that several of the other areas included in the bill do not need it either and I just think perhaps that I have to agree a bit with Senator Morehead. We have a situation that has resulted in a decreased revenue base for the tech schools. Those tech schools, I think for the most part, we will agree do an excellent job. We have appreciated their contribution to the State of Nebraska's educational system. However, that decline in revenue reflects reality in the country. It does not reflect an increase in the ability to pay. I would suggest that I have spent most of my weekends and more than I like of my evenings discussing taxation with some of my constituents across the State of Nebraska. The sooner we realize and recognize that there is a serious economic problem in Nebraska, the sooner I believe we are going to be able to address it. I stated very emphatically during the special session that I was opposed to those measures which bail out the tax supported areas of government at the expense of those individuals who contribute those taxes, because without all of us sharing equally in the economic adversity that faces the State of Nebraska today, there is no real concerted effort to turn it around. Far more likely are we to place the blame upon individuals in many instances who have no ability to counteract their situation, and I would just like to suggest to you that the individuals who are trying to determine how they are going to make their ends meet this spring with a built-in reduction of 30 to 40 percent on the expected income which they can achieve are going to find it difficult to believe that this kind of bill is actually necessary. I know that we all have difficulties