

particular spots. Today we are looking at a little spot of homestead exemption. But we're none of us looking at the big picture anymore. I did something the last couple of days which I found most interesting. I went out and did my own poll going into different places where they drink toddies where you can talk to people, going to grocery stores. I talked to about 86 people trying to find out one question. I dare you to do the same thing because you are going to blow your mind when you find out what they believe. You are going to discover that most Nebraskans, I am going to say in excess of 90 percent, do not know, in fact, there are legislators in this room who do not know that every single penny of property tax dollars is one hundred percent strictly local government, not a penny goes to state government. I dare you to go out and do a poll of your own. Go into the places out, talk to your friends, talk to your closest friends out there and you will discover that Nebraskans do not know that every single penny of property taxes which are the highest relatively speaking for income, the highest in the United States, are going strictly to local government, not one penny down here for all the things you are going to read about on the front page. Now if we are having such huge quantities of dollars, all the property taxes, about the highest in the United States, and half of this state budget, the \$850 million we are talking about here that we fight about, if all that is going to local government too, what is going on at local government?

SENATOR BEUTLER: One minute, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Then go and take some other time and start reading statistics. One of them you are going to discover is that the local government in the State of Nebraska, good old conservative Nebraska where everybody is "a Republican and conservative" and doesn't like to spend except for the few Democrats that are more conservative, you are going to discover that in this most conservative state we rank number two or three, depending upon what the latest figure is, in the number of local government employees per capita. I just told you, number two or three in the whole bloody United States. Who is ahead of us? Wyoming. And one of the reasons is Wyoming because they do a lot of state functions at the local level, and New York. Well, they can afford it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Time is up, Senator DeCamp.